



An Bille um Chionta Spíceála, 2026
Spiking Offences Bill 2026

Meabhrán Miniúcháin
Explanatory Memorandum



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SPIKING OFFENCES BILL 2026

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Purpose of the Bill

There have been 278 spiking incidents reported to Gardaí between 2022 and 2025. Sexual violence centres estimate that this is only the tip of the iceberg.

None of the reported incidents since 2022 have resulted in a prosecution under current legislation, the Non-Fatal Offences Against the Person Act 1997, where spiking is considered under poisoning. Conviction under this section only carries a 3-year sentence.

This Bill will make spiking a standalone offence which can lead to a conviction by indictment with a maximum sentence of 10 years.

This Bill also will introduce a statutory toxicology pathway for victims of spiking to assist them in their care and pursuit of justice.

Provisions of the Bill

Section 1: Definitions

Section 1 Defines spiking and the Minister responsible in the legislation.

Section 2: Spiking

Section 2 outline the offence of spiking and the sentencing maximum.

Section 3: Toxicology Pathway

Section 3 calls on the Minister to arrange on members of an Garda Síochána to establish toxicology pathways in Garda Síochána stations and clinical settings.

Section 4: Short title and commencement

Section 4 provides for the short title of the commencement of the Act.

Mark Ward, TD, Máire Devine, TD

Deireadh Fómhair, 2026.

