The University of Bath received information, circulating on social media platforms, that there was an intention by University of Bath Rugby Club members, as part of their initiation ceremony, to spike the drinks of Bath Spa University female students and to sexually assault the students following the spiking. This was to take place during induction week, mid-September 2026.

The University of Bath took steps to mitigate any risks to students. They then commissioned an external impartial investigation company Intersol Global to carry out an investigation in two phases.

Phase 1 to identify the first hand source(s) of the allegations, and if the source(s) were found to carry out a phase 2 investigation under the University of Bath Student Disciplinary Regulations.

Seven (7) students were interviewed or spoken to by phone who had either posted messages on social media or who had been socialising in identified venues, The Royal Oak public house and Komedia nightclub, used by students at both universities. The staff at both premises assisted the investigation in identifying potential students that may have assisted the investigation. However, those spoken to had either received the information regarding the spiking third hand or simply recirculated information that had received from friends or via social media.

No one spoken to had witnessed firsthand any University of Bath Rugby Club member or any other student voicing an intention to spike and/or sexually assault any Bath Spa university student or any other student.

CCTV from the identified venues, was either not available or had already been erased and not able to be recovered for viewing.

Social media messages that were circulating were properly researched and where possible the authors of the messages spoken to, again, they indicated that they had posted their messages having received the information about potential spiking third hand. Another key message was circulated on social media. Prior to circulation the author of the message had been redacted and there was no way of identifying the author. No one spoken to identified the author of that message.

On 16th October a circulation was made by Bath Spa University on social media platforms as a request for firsthand information about the alleged intention to spike drinks of students. Only three people responded to this request, none of whom could identify the original source of the information.

University of Bath Rugby Club representatives were also interviewed and stated that no initiation ceremonies take place and that other than the circulated messages they had no information to add.

At the conclusion of Phase 1 of the investigation the investigator could not identify anyone who could identify the source of the hearsay rumours circulating on social media.

The investigator could not identify any member of the University of Bath Rugby Club or any other student voicing an intention to spike and/or sexually assault any Bath Spa university student or any other student. Therefore on that basis the investigation could not proceed to the proposed Phase 2.