



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2008-03679

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** ALCOHOL RELATED OFFENCES IN SCHOOLS 2003 - 2007

### Request:

**The number of alcohol related offences, (should be taken to mean all criminal offences involving alcohol) for each of the last five calendar years (2003-07), recorded on schools, colleges or other educational establishments.**

**Please break down the figures by age of offender and state what offence was committed and (if within cost and time limit) the action taken by police (arrest/caution/charge).**

### Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full.

Please find attached records numbered 1574.pdf – Appendix A.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate to contact me on 028 9070 0164. When contacting the Freedom of Information Team, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this email.

If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible, or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter. In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Head of Freedom of Information, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing [foi@psni.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@psni.pnn.police.uk).

If following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision maker, you were to remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request you may make a complaint, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the PSNI has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. You can write to the Information Commissioner at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out, however the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Please be advised that all PSNI replies under Freedom of Information will be released simultaneously into the public domain via our website @ [www.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk).

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.

**Recorded alcohol related crime<sup>1</sup> where the incident location was an educational establishment, by year and crime classification**

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Offences against the person	16	7	8	3	6
Sexual offences	0	1	0	2	1
Burglary	17	23	8	1	2
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Theft	8	8	0	1	0
Fraud and forgery	0	0	1	0	0
Criminal Damage	56	71	45	25	8
Offences against the state	0	0	0	0	0
Other notifiable offences	2	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>17</b>

Source: Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

**Cleared alcohol related offences where the incident location was an educational establishment, by year and method of clearance**

	2003	2004	2005	2006 <sup>2</sup>	2007 <sup>3</sup>
Taken into consideration	1	0	0	0	0
Charge/summons	8	5	7	6	5
Caution – adults <sup>4</sup>	2	0	0	0	3
Caution – juveniles <sup>5</sup>	2	1	1	2	6
Complainant declines to prosecute	3	5	4	0	0
No prosecution directed	1	2	0	0	1
Otherwise disposed of	0	1	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>

Source: Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

<sup>1</sup> Alcohol related offences have been identified through the completion of motivation fields recording perceptions as to whether or not the offence was alcohol related or if the person committing the offence was affected by/under the influence of alcohol. Please note that the application of these alcohol-related motivations are not quality assured by Central Statistics Unit.

<sup>2</sup> In April 2006 PSNI adopted a higher evidential standard in respect of non sanction clearances (those where no further action is taken by the police, mainly due to the victim not wanting formal action taken by the police or due to no prosecution being directed). This change was introduced in order to bring these clearance types more closely into line with police services in England and Wales where they have been applying the Crown Prosecution Service evidential test since 2002. In Northern Ireland the equivalent standard only became relevant to PSNI clearances with the establishment of the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) in June 2005. Sanction clearances remained unaffected by this change.

***Please note that these figures are provisional and subject to change***

## Appendix A

<sup>3</sup>The Home Office significantly restricted the clearance types available to the police from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007 which meant that virtually all clearances resulting in 'no further police action' (i.e. non sanction clearances) could no longer be claimed as a valid clearance. These clearance types accounted for 4 percentage points of the PSNI clearance rate in 2006/07 but only accounted for less than 0.1 of a percentage point in 2007/08 following this latest restriction. This means that the PSNI overall clearance rate and its sanction clearance rate are now virtually one and the same. This same change also applied to all police services in England and Wales from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007.

<sup>4</sup> Adult cautions include adult cautions and adult informed warnings.

<sup>5</sup> Juvenile cautions include juvenile restorative cautions, juvenile informed warnings and juvenile prosecutorial diversions. Up until 30<sup>th</sup> Aug 2005 juvenile cautions were issued to 10-16 year olds. After this time they included 17 year olds.

Please also note that the figures provided in the above tables relate to notifiable offences only and do not include offences such as disorderly behaviour.

***Please note that these figures are provisional and subject to change***