



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2008-03680

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** ALCOHOL RELATED OFFENCES INVOLVING UNDER 18 YEAR OLD'S OVER LAST 5 YEARS.

### Request:

The number of alcohol related offences, for each of the last five calendar years (2003-07), recorded anywhere in your force area, where the offender was aged 18 or younger. Please break down the figures according to age of offender, stating what offence was committed and (if you are able to do so without exceeding time and cost limits) the action taken by place (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 record numbered 1575.pdf - Appendix A.

We can supply the total number of recorded offences, by crime classification, noted as being alcohol related. We can also supply the total number of recorded alcohol related offences that were cleared broken down by clearance method for the same time period. Central Statistics Branch do not record information on offenders and therefore we are unable to provide statistics by age of offender.

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.psnipolice.uk](http://www.psnipolice.uk).

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

### Recorded alcohol related crime<sup>1</sup> by year and crime classification

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Offences against the person	8375	7343	5820	5781	5366
Sexual offences	175	159	136	160	146
Burglary	481	375	260	192	159
Robbery	180	124	77	74	53
Theft	1386	1011	665	648	466
Fraud and forgery	74	66	46	56	25
Criminal Damage	3707	2931	2397	2192	1569
Offences against the state	118	79	77	96	125
Other notifiable offences	194	175	247	266	230
<b>Total</b>	<b>14690</b>	<b>12263</b>	<b>9725</b>	<b>9465</b>	<b>8139</b>

Source: Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

### Cleared alcohol related offences by year and method of clearance

	2003	2004	2005	2006 <sup>2</sup>	2007 <sup>3</sup>
Taken into consideration	9	4	8	4	4
Charge/summons	2618	2379	1989	2053	2771
Caution – adults <sup>4</sup>	198	173	131	137	219
Caution – juveniles <sup>5</sup>	64	51	50	80	109
Complainant declines to prosecute	3196	2548	2191	838	148
No prosecution directed	242	233	160	82	44
Otherwise disposed of	14	30	11	11	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>6341</b>	<b>5418</b>	<b>4540</b>	<b>3205</b>	<b>3296</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.

<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

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

## Appendix A

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 only 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***