



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2008-03648

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: STOP/SEARCH STATISTICS INCLUDING RECOVERY OF BLADED WEAPONS

Request:

How many under 18s were stopped and searched by police officers in your force from Jan 1 to Dec 31 2007 and also from Jan 1 to July 1 2008 (or as recently as you have them)? For these how many knives or other bladed weapons were recovered?

The same figures for people aged 18 and over.

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 enclosed record numbered 1568.pdf (appendix A).

Please note that the statistics provided relate to the period 01/10/2007 to 31/03/2008. I spoke to you by phone on 05/08/2008 and you agreed to refine your request to bring it under the cost limit. The reason for this is that our Central Statistics Unit has only started collating this information since 01/10/2007. The only other method available to retrieve statistics for the period requested, 01/07/2007 to 01/07/2008 would involve a manual trawl of records held at District level. The cost of doing this would exceed the "appropriate limit" as stated in the Freedom of Information Regulations 2004, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450.

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 letter.

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.

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.

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

Appendix A

FOI-2008-03648 How many under 18s were stopped and searched by police officers in your force from Jan 1 to Dec 31 2007 and also from Jan 1 to July 1 2008 (or as recently as you have them)? For these how many knives or other bladed weapons were recovered?

The same figures for people aged 18 and over

Stop and Search Statistics

1st October 2007 – 31st March 2008

Age	Number of Persons searched	Knives recovered
Under 18s	2,467	10
18 and over	7,208	25
Age not provided	641	0
Total	10,316	35

¹ Information collated from PACE 1/TA forms and includes searches under PACE, Terrorism Act and Justice and Security Act

Source: Central Statistics Unit, Police Service of Northern Ireland, Lisnasharragh