



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-00330

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: CANNABIS FACTORIES

Request and 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.

Question 1 (i)

How many 'Cannabis Factories' or Illegal Cannabis Cultivating Facilities have been discovered by your force in the past 5 years? (if you can provide annual figures then please do)

Question 1 (ii)

(If data doesn't exist for the past 5 years) How many of the above have been discovered in the past year?

Question 2 (i)

How many people have been charged in connection with the illegal cultivation of Cannabis in the past year?

Question 2 (ii)

(if data available) How many people have been charged in connection with the illegal cultivation of Cannabis in the past five years?

Answer 1 & 2

In relation to questions 1(i) and 2 (i) please find as attachment the information PSNI have located. The attachment contains tables, which are entitled Cannabis Plant seizures and Cultivating Cannabis.

It should be noted that "Cannabis Factories" would not be a terminology the PSNI would use to describe large finds of cannabis plants.

However, to enable information to be provided to you, PSNI have determined that a cannabis find of over 50 plants, could be considered as a significant find, and it is this the table entitled Cannabis Plant seizures reflects.

Question 3

How many of those charged in connection with the illegal cultivation of Cannabis were Vietnamese either by origin or nationality?

Answer

One

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate to contact 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

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 PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ <http://www.psni.police.uk/>

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

FOI-2009-00330 - Please could you supply me with the following information

- 1i. How many 'Cannabis Factories' or Illegal Cannabis Cultivating Facilities have been discovered by your force in the past 5 years? (if you can provide annual figures then please do)
- ii. (If data doesn't exist for the past 5 years) How many of the above have been discovered in the past year?
- 2i. How many people have been charged in connection with the illegal cultivation of Cannabis in the past year?
- ii. (if data available) How many people have been charged in connection with the illegal cultivation of Cannabis in the past five years?
3. How many of those charged in connection with the illegal cultivation of Cannabis were Vietnamese either by origin or nationality?

Drug Statistics

Seizures of 50 or more cannabis plants

1st April 2003 – 31st December 2008

Year	Number of Seizures of 50 or more cannabis plants
2003/04	7
2004/05	1
2005/06	5
2006/07	7
2007/08	18
April – December 2008	61

Note: Statistics are provisional and may be subject to minor amendment.

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

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- ii. (If data doesn't exist for the past 5 years) How many of the above have been discovered in the past year?
- 2i. How many people have been charged in connection with the illegal cultivation of Cannabis in the past year?
- ii. (if data available) How many people have been charged in connection with the illegal cultivation of Cannabis in the past five years?
3. How many of those charged in connection with the illegal cultivation of Cannabis were Vietnamese either by origin or nationality?

Drug Statistics

Persons charged with cultivating cannabis – 1st April 2003 – 31st December 2008

Year	Persons Charged/ Summonsed
2003/04 ¹	18 ¹
2004/05 ¹	22 ¹
2005/06 ¹	16 ¹
2006/07	40
2007/08	44
April – December 2008*	81

¹ Due to limitations of legacy IT systems, figures prior to 2006/07 also include the number of persons summonsed.

** Note: 2008/09 Statistics are provisional and may be subject to minor amendment.*

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