



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-02425

Keyword: Crime

Subject: ARREST OF BRITISH / FOREIGN NATIONALS FOR NOTIFIABLE OFFENCES

Request and Answer:

Question

Please provide the total number of a) British nationals and b) foreign nationals by nationality who have been arrested/had proceedings taken against them for notifiable offences in your force area in each of the past 5 years. Please break this down into offence categories, including: violence against a person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary, theft and handling, fraud or forgery, criminal damage, drug offences, other notifiable offences.

Answer

To retrieve the information you have requested would involve interrogating two different computer systems. To interrogate the NICHE System would involve writing a total of forty scripts to retrieve the information relevant to the request and would take approximately eighteen hours to complete. Also, in relation to the 'proceedings taken against them', interrogating the ICIS System would involve approximately 20,000 hits. These would all have to be summarised and categorised, by notifiable offence, nationality and year and would take approximately twenty-five to thirty hours to complete. Therefore, to retrieve the information you have requested (approximately 48 hours), would be a labour intensive and time consuming task, and would exceed the appropriate limit as outlined below.

The cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the "appropriate limit" as stated in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit & Fees) Regulations 2004, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450.

The PSNI have also considered whether we can be of any assistance in terms of helping you refine your request to bring it under the cost limit however the nature and structure of the information makes this extremely difficult.

You may wish to submit a refined request in order that the cost of complying with your request may be facilitated within the 'appropriate limit'. Submission of a refined request would be treated as a new request, and considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, including consideration of relevant Part II exemptions.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice, and the request has therefore been closed.

If you have any queries regarding your request or this 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

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 @ www.psnipolice.uk

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