



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-03488

Keyword: Crime

Subject: DRINK DRIVING STATISTICS

Request and Answer:

Question 1

I would like to know how many people have been arrested for drink-driving so far this year (Jan - Nov) and a breakdown of towns or cities where they were arrested.

Question 2

I would also like to know how the total so far for this year compares to 2008 and 2007.

Answer

The cost of complying with your request for information 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 (18 hours).

The record owner has informed me that to specify the information requested for every town/city that drink driving arrests relate to would take an estimated 40 hours. This is because search scripts would need to be written that can identify and filter towns individually on our system. Therefore if there are 150 towns/cities in Northern Ireland, a script needs to be written for each of those towns, filtering out the arrests not in that town. The three years of statistics you require would involve writing 450 search scripts (150 towns x 3 years). As it takes an estimated 8 hours to write 87 of these scripts, the cost of complying with your request would considerably exceed the £450 threshold.

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.

Under our Section 16 duty to assist I have provided below the information that has been retrieved within cost.

Please see the table below which details information for 2007, 2008 and 2009 in relation to arrests made for drink-driving offences in [the District Command Units with the main town in each District Command Unit](#).

DISTRICT COMMAND UNIT	2007	2008	2009 – TO DATE
ANTRIM	161	139	113
ARDS (NEWTOWNARDS)	184	133	112
ARMAGH	177	170	117
BANBRIDGE	89	83	89
BELFAST EAST	210	134	167
BELFAST NORTH	225	220	202
BELFAST SOUTH	288	274	258
BELFAST WEST	156	141	171
BALLYMENA	138	118	151
BALLYMONEY	66	39	28
CARRICKFERGUS	31	20	34
COLERAINE	194	187	150
COOKSTOWN	104	97	86
CRAIGAVON (PORTADOWN)	228	237	200
CASTLEREAGH	128	106	97
DUNGANNON AND SOUTH TYRONE	281	205	192
DOWN (DOWNPATRICK)	216	183	173
FERMANAGH (ENNISKILLEN)	166	226	197
FOYLE (LONDONDERRY)	214	181	151
LARNE	10	17	35
LIMAVADY	88	74	76
LISBURN	254	211	218
MAGHERAFELT	41	82	92
MOYLE	34	20	37
NEWTOWNABBEY	68	71	106
NEWRY AND MOURNE	384	367	216
NORTH DOWN (BANGOR)	204	175	136
OMAGH	177	184	115
STRABANE	96	81	77
TOTAL	4,612	4,175	3,796

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 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 PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ www.psnj.police.uk

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