



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-01682

Keyword: Crime

Subject: OFFENCES, CAUTIONS AND FIXED PENALTIES - 2008

Request and Answer:

Question 1

Please provide figures for the number of offences recorded by your force in 2008, broken down by type of crime recorded and outcome (e.g.: simple caution; conditional caution; fixed penalty issued; Magistrates Court appearance etc).

Answer

Please see page 1 of the attached document where you will find the table entitled Recorded and Cleared Offences by Home Office Classification and Clearance Method 2008 Northern Ireland. Please note the legislation covering Fixed Penalty Notices and Penalty Notices for Disorder is not applicable to Northern Ireland. Fixed penalties are issued by the Police Service of Northern Ireland only for traffic offences and some parking offences.

Question 2

Please provide a breakdown of the number of cautions and fixed penalties given for the following specific crimes by your force in 2008:

A. SEXUAL OFFENCES:

Rape

Indecent Assault

Sexual Assault

Child pornography (please indicate whether possession/distribution etc)

B. VIOLENT OFFENCES:

GBH

ABH

Common Assault

Possession of offensive weapon

Disorder offences

C. DRUGS OFFENCES:

Drug possession (please indicate which drug)

Drug supply (please indicate which drug)

D. DISHONESTY:

Burglary (please specify whether burglary or domestic or commercial property)

Fraud

Answer

Please see page 2 of the attached document where you will find the table entitled Selected Recorded and Cleared Offences by Offence Type Northern Ireland 2008 which contains a breakdown of the number of cautions issued for the specific crimes throughout 2008. As previously advised the Police Service of Northern Ireland issue Penalty Notices for Disorder as an equivalent to Fixed Penalty Notices, please note the PSNI do not issue Fixed Penalty Notices or Penalty Notices for Disorder on any of the offences you have listed in your request. A list of offences whereby a Fixed Penalty Notice may be issued by the PSNI can be found by using the attached link.

http://www.psni.police.uk/index/advice-and-legislation/roads_and_driving/advice_penalty_notices/fixed_penalty_offence_codes.htm

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

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.psni.police.uk

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

**Recorded and cleared offences by Home Office Classification and Clearance method
2008
Northern Ireland**

	Recorded	Cleared ¹	Sanction clearances				Non sanction clearances	
			Charge/summons	Caution – adult ²	Caution – juveniles ³	Taken into consideration	No prosecution directed	Offender died before proceedings
Offences against the person	29,254	8,806	7,833	505	463	1	3	1
Sexual offences	1,923	453	411	20	19	0	2	1
Burglary	12,182	1,336	1,134	23	57	122	0	0
Robbery	1,149	177	171	1	1	0	4	0
Theft	25,807	4,684	3,220	768	593	103	0	0
Fraud and forgery	3,621	755	653	76	22	4	0	0
Criminal damage	29,194	2,977	2,348	262	363	4	0	0
Offences against the state	1,297	678	570	37	71	0	0	0
Other notifiable offences	5,064	3,900	3,099	634	164	3	0	0
Total	109,491	23,766	19,439	2,326	1,753	237	9	2

Source: Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

¹ Consists of the total sanction and non sanction clearances for the time period.

² Adult cautions include adult cautions and adult informed warnings.

² Juvenile cautions include juvenile restorative cautions, juvenile informed warnings and juvenile prosecutorial diversions.

Selected recorded and cleared offences by offence type

Northern Ireland

2008

	Recorded	Cleared ¹	Of those cleared, the number cleared by caution ²
Rape (incl. attempts)	396	86	3
Indecent Assault ³	822	169	13
Indecent Photographs ⁴	69	25	0
GBH/Wounding with/without Intent	1,647	510	12
AOABH	12,629	3,130	488
Common/Aggravated Assault	7,779	1,525	263
Possession of offensive weapon ⁵	812	551	83
Drug – Non-Trafficking	2,311	1,862	738
Drug – Trafficking	594	422	21
Burglary	12,182	1,336	80
Domestic Burglary	7,042	641	39
Non-Domestic Burglary	4,999	621	39
Going equipped	142	84	3
Fraud and Forgery	3,621	755	98

	Recorded		Cleared		Caution	
	Drug – Trafficking	Drug – Non-Trafficking	Drug – Trafficking	Drug – Non-Trafficking	Drug – Trafficking	Drug – Non-Trafficking
Class A	206	528	147	420	6	81
Class B	174	49	114	43	4	7
Class C	212	1733	161	1398	11	649
Other	2	1	0	1	0	1
Total	594	2311	422	1862	21	738

Source: Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

¹ Also includes clearances by means of caution issued.

² Cautions include adult cautions, adult informed warnings, juvenile restorative cautions, juvenile informed warnings and juvenile prosecutorial diversions.

³ Includes Indecent assault on a male, Indecent assault on a male child, Indecent assault on a female and Indecent assault on a female child.

⁴ Relates to all indecent image offences regardless of victim age.

⁵ Possession of offensive weapon offences include firearms offences endangering life, firearms offences, possession of offensive weapon and possession of article with blade or point.