



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-00739

Keyword: Crime

Subject: STOP AND SEARCH OF UNDER 16'S FOR KNIVES IN 2007 - 2008

Request and Answer:

How many times did police officers stop and search people aged 16 and under for knives in 2007 and 2008?

The PSNI advised you of what information we could provide within the cost limit and that the information will be from **October 2007**. You provided clarification on 11/3/09 indicating that you would be content with answers to the questions below.

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.

Question 1

Provide the number of persons aged 16 and under stopped and searched for offensive weapons.

Question 2

Provide the number of persons aged 16 year and under stopped with a knife (where a knife has been included in the objects found)

Answer

The answers to questions 1 & 2 are contained within the attached PDF document 0000001933.

Question 3

Give the age of the youngest person stopped with a knife and type of knife.

Answer

The youngest person stopped and searched and found in possession of a knife between 1st October 2007 and 31st December 2007 was a 14 year old. The youngest person found in possession of a knife after a stop and search in 2008 was a 12 year old. In both cases, a Stanley knife was recovered.

Question 4

Give examples of knives recovered from persons aged 16 and under where a knife has been mentioned on the stop and search form.

Answer

The following examples were recovered - Stanley knives, flick knives and fishing knives.

The Police Service working in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Office and supported by Crimestoppers and the Youth Justice Agency have recently launched a schools knife project. The specially commissioned educational drama is

aimed at 12 to 13 year olds and has been rolled out across Northern Ireland.

The drama has a crime prevention theme around the possession of knives; the consequences for friends and families; and the problems that arise. The main focus is to inform young people that if they know something about knife crime, they should tell and to let them know how to do this – either by contacting PSNI or by calling the anonymous Crimestoppers number.

As part of the initiative each post primary school within Northern Ireland will receive an education pack which will contain information from the Police Service, Northern Ireland office, Crimestoppers and the Youth Justice Agency.

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 @ <http://www.psni.police.uk/>

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

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Stop and Search Statistics

Answer 1

Year	Persons stopped and searched for an offensive weapon
1 st October 2007 – 31 st December 2007	87
1 st January 2008 – 31 st December 2008	444
Total	531

Answer 2

Year	Persons stopped where a knife has been included in the objects found
1 st October 2007 – 31 st December 2007	2
1 st January 2008 – 31 st December 2008	8
Total	10