



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-02104

Keyword: Crime

Subject: UNDERAGE DRINKING - 2009

Request and Answer:

The information provided is for detections as not all young people would be arrested for under-age drinking. Once detected a young person is reported to the Police Service of Northern Ireland's Youth Diversion Scheme and these cases are dealt with by way of Diversionary Disposals and Prosecutions.

Question 1

The number of young people aged 16 or under arrested for street drinking, from January 1, 2009 to June 30th, 2009?

Answer

PSNI Community Safety Branch have advised that research of the Youth Diversion database has shown that 128 young people aged 16 or under were detected for underage drinking from 1st January - 30th June '09.

Question 2

How many were girls? How many were boys?

Answer

Of the 128 I can advise 47 were female and 81 were male.

Question 3

Age of the youngest held for street drinking? Outcome of that case?

Answer

The youngest person detected for underage drinking was 11 years of age and the outcome of this case was 'no prosecution'.

Question 4

Outcome, how many charges, how many cautions, bail etc?

Answer

Community Safety have advised that the outcomes of the detections are as follows :

50 received Informed Warnings
12 received Restorative Cautions
1 received Youth Conference
54 were directed No Prosecution
11 were referred for prosecution

With regard to outcomes of any prosecutions the Public Prosecution Service would be best placed to advise.

Question 5

The number of 17-year-olds arrested for street drinking from January 1, 2009 to June 30th, 2009?

Answer

I can advise that 37 young people aged 17 years were detected for underage drinking from 1st January - 30 June '09.

Question 6

How many were girls how many were boys?

Answer

Of the 37 detected 31 were male and 6 were female

Tackling the harm caused by the misuse of alcohol requires leadership at every level from throughout the community – including police, elected representatives, community leaders, educationalists, health providers and parents.

The Police Service Northern Ireland takes the issue of underage drinking very seriously. Over the summer period Operation SNAPPER saw police officers targeting hot-spot public areas to confiscate alcohol from underage drinkers and from people drinking in public in contravention of council byelaws. (SNAPPER is an acronym for Support No Alcohol in Public Places through Partnership, Enforcement and Regulation)

In a partnership approach to action against the misuse of alcohol, the Police Service Northern Ireland worked in partnership with the Policing Board, the NIO, the DHSSPS and the Public Health Agency to run a campaign to encourage parents to talk to their children about alcohol. The campaign ran for four weeks in June 2009, two weeks in August 2009 and will run for a further period in October 2009.

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.