



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2009-03711

**Keyword:** Operational Policing

**Subject:** Custody Suites, Station Enquiry Offices Etc

### Request and Answer:

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

How many custody suites are there in your Force area?

#### Answer

The Police Service of Northern Ireland currently have 17 Custody Suites

#### Question 2

What is the detainee throughput at each custody suite per annum?

#### Answer

The detainee throughput at each custody suite for the last year is as follows; 1650, 1350, 3625, 1748, 1721, 1065, 1200, 2400, 4678\*, 1482, 1969, 1186, 2768, 776, 1290 and 1573 detainees.

\* There have been significant changes in Custody provision within E District over the past twelve months, particularly with the closure of two suites in April 09. The total throughput for the District in the past twelve months has been 4678 detainees. Two suites remain open in E District at the time of your request.

Also during the year, one further custody suite was closed by the PSNI in F District. Until closure it handled 1104 detainees.

#### Question 3

What is the average time a detainee spends in custody in your Force area?

#### Answer

15/12/2008 – 15/12/2009 32662 Detained persons averaging **8 hours 56 minutes** per person. We did not include persons detained on immigration offences detained over three days. We also disregarded one custody record which referred to a person who escaped from lawful custody (from

hospital) and another detained in hospital these custody records should have been closed when the detained persons left the custody suites.

**Question 4**

How many police officers work in those custody suites?

**Answer**

128 police officers work in these custody suites providing 24 hour cover.

**Question 5**

How many civilian detention officers work in those custody suites?

**Answer**

50 civilian detention officers work in these custody suites

**Question 6**

Are the civilian detention officers employed by the Force? YES/NO

**Answer**

No, the civilian detention officers are not employed by the PSNI.

**Question 7**

Are the civilian detention officers employed by an outside contractor? YES/NO

**Answer**

Yes, the civilian detention officers are employed by an outside contractor

**Question 8**

What is the duration of a "shift" for a detention officer?

**Answer**

Civilian detention officers work a 12 hour shift pattern.

**Question 9**

How many receptionists are employed to deal with front desk public enquiries in your Force area?

**Answer**

63 Station Enquiry Assistants are employed to deal with front desk public enquiries in PSNI stations

**Question 10**

Are the receptionists employed by an outside contractor? YES/NO

**Answer**

Yes, some of the Station Enquiry Assistants are employed by an outside contractor.

**Question 11**

Are they employed by the Force? YES/NO

**Answer**

Yes, some of the Station Enquiry Assistants are employed by the PSNI.

**Question 12**

Have you employed ca PFI project director in the last 12 months? YES/NO

**Answer**

No, the PSNI have not employed a PFI project director in the last 12 months.

**Question 13**

Do civilian support staff manage and operate VIPER / PROMAT (video identification)? YES/NO

**Answer**

No, civilian support staff do not manage and operate VIPER / PROMAT (video identification).

**Question 14**

Does the Force use an outside contractor to provide medical practitioner services in custody suites? YES/NO

**Answer**

The PSNI uses outside contractors to provide services as set out under the Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989

**Question 15**

Who is the person responsible for custody in the Force?

**Answer**

Assistant Chief Constable for Operational Support Department is the lead ACPO rank for custody.

It should be noted that the information provided was accurate at the time of your request, however staffing levels and police officer / civilian employee ratios are subject to change.

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 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](mailto: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](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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