



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-03606

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: HOW MANY INDIVIDUALS WERE CHARGED WITH A CRIME WHILST ON BAIL

Request and Answer:

Question 1

How many individuals were charged with a crime whilst on:

Police bail;

Police to court bail; and

Court bail?

I would like this information for each financial year since 2004.

Answer

The time period used for this request is 1 April 2006 onwards as the system on which bail records are held in most custody suites was live from this date.

The results were found by locating all bail records created on, or after, 1 April 2006.

Results are as follows:

How many individuals were charged with a crime whilst on Police bail (bail to return to police)

2006/2007 - 274

2007/2008 - 337

2008/2009 - 522

2009/2010 - 449

How many individuals were charged with a crime whilst on Police to court bail (PSNI Charge sheet)

2006/2007 - 391

2007/2008 - 341

2008/2009 - 502

2009/2010 - 354

The PSNI does not record "court bail" in the same way therefore no figures are included in respect of this part of the question.

In addition, the cost of complying with the parts of your request that refer to Court Bail and all types of bail pre 1 April 2006, would exceed the "appropriate limit" as stated in the Freedom of Information (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland have also considered whether we can be of any assistance in terms of helping you refine these parts of your request to bring it under the cost limit, however, the nature and structure of the information unfortunately makes this impossible. This is because the appropriate limit, as outlined above, has been reached by the retrieval of information that has been provided in answer to your request.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice in respect of all information that has not been provided. The request has therefore been closed.

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.

If, following an internal review carried out by an independent decision maker, you were to remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of this 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.