



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-01844

Keyword: Road Policing

Subject: ALCOHOL RELATED ROAD DEATHS

Request and Answer:

Question

Under the freedom of Information Act I would like to know how many road deaths in Northern Ireland for the past 5 years, for which statistics are available, have been alcohol related and how many have been related to non-alcohol drugs?

Answer

The Police Service of Northern Ireland do not hold the statistics in the format you have requested. Central Statistics Unit have advised that 'Alcohol/ drugs' is recorded under a single causation factor when recording statistics and as such are unable to provide a separate breakdown for alcohol and another for drugs.

I contacted our Roads Policing Branch and they have provided the attached statistics, which I hope, are of assistance in answering your request.

Please see the attached document below, which contains figures related only to those drivers and riders who have died as a result of an RTC and whose blood has been analysed for alcohol and/or impairing drugs. **It is worth noting that whilst the driver/rider may have been impaired, these statistics are not concerned with the influence of alcohol/drugs as a contributory factor in these collisions.**

Also attached is another document, which summarises injury RTCs and Casualties due to 'Alcohol or Drugs'. These figures relate to whether alcohol, drugs or a combination of the two were a contributory factor in fatal and injury collisions and casualties. For your information the preliminary determination as to whether alcohol/drugs were a contributory factor in a fatal collision is made by the Senior Investigating Officer, shortly after the collision occurs. In such cases a suspect driver/rider is tested for alcohol and/or drugs with the subsequent forensic analysis of the blood received some months later for the purpose of legal proceedings. We are unable at this time to statistically link these forensic results to individual collisions to separate out alcohol and drugs as two distinct causation factors.

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.

Injury Road Traffic Collisions and Casualties due to 'Alcohol or Drugs (All Road Users)' 2004/05 -

	Collisions				Casualties				
	Fatal Collision	Serious Collision	Slight Collision	Total	Killed	Seriously Injured	Killed & Seriously Injured	Slightly Injured	Total Casualties
2004/05	32	83	231	346	38	132	170	482	652
2005/06	25	92	204	321	26	121	147	424	571
2006/07	23	85	257	365	28	131	159	447	606
2007/08	15	110	306	431	18	143	161	500	661
2008/09	23	111	260	394	24	153	177	436	613
Total	118	481	1258	1857	134	680	814	2289	3103

SUMMARY OF DRIVER/RIDER FATALITIES: 2000-2007

	2000 (Apr - Dec)	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	TOTAL
Cases analysed	70	66	57	71	80	70	57	67	538
Impairing Drugs Found	13 (19%)	17 (26%)	15 (26%)	15 (21%)	14 (17.5%)	14 (20%)	17(30%)	14 (20%)	119
Alcohol Above Legal Limit	22 (31%)	18 (27%)	15 (26%)	19 (27%)	17 (21%)	21 (30%)	7 (12%)	9 (13%)	128
Alcohol Below Legal Limit	1	4	6	5	4	1	7 (12%)	1 (1%)	29
Alcohol Present	23 (33%)	22 (33%)	21 (37%)	24 (34%)	21 (26%)	22 (31%)	14 (24%)	10 (15%)	157
Alcohol + 1 Drug	6	7	7	3	3	4	4	0	34
Alcohol + 2 Drugs	0	3	3	1	1	1	2	2	13
Alcohol + More Than 2 Drugs	0	0	0	3	3	1	1	0	8
Alcohol + Drug(s)	6 (9%)	10 (15%)	10 (15%)	7 (10%)	7 (9%)	6 (9%)	7 (12%)	2 (3%)	55
Alcohol and/or Drug(s)	30 (43%)	29 (44%)	26 (46%)	32 (45%)	28 (35%)	29 (41%)	21 (37%)	23 (34%)	218