



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2010-00790  
**Keyword:** Crime  
**Subject:** Begging Offences

### 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

Could you please tell me how many people have been arrested/charged in Belfast and Northern Ireland in the past 5 years for begging (due to the vagrancy act), what nationality were they (if this is possible), and what were the consequences (e.g. fine, imprisonment, verbal warning etc)

### Answer

Please see the tables provided below.

The information provided for 2005 details those arrested and reported. The recording techniques employed in 2005 did not record charges and therefore this information is not held.

Crime recording techniques changed in 2006 and therefore the information in relation to charges is recorded and provided for 2006 onwards.

PSNI recording systems are unable to connect the conviction to the location of the offence.

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.psnj.police.uk](http://www.psnj.police.uk)

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

ARRESTED	2005	Nationality
Belfast W	1	Northern Ireland
Belfast E	1	Poland
Rest of N.I.	3	Poland
Rest of N.I.	2	Ireland

ARRESTED	2006	Nationality	2007	Nationality	2008	Nationality	2009	Nationality
Belfast E			1	1 Romania	1	1 Bulgaria		
Belfast N					2	1 Slovakia 1 Romania		
Belfast S	4	3 Northern Ireland 1 Russia	2	1 Northern Ireland 1 Romania			4	4 Romania
Belfast W								
C District	3	2 Northern Ireland 1 Poland	1	1 Romania	1	1 Romania		
D District							4	4 Romania
E District	3	1 Northern Ireland 2 Poland	7	7 Romania	5	3 Romania 1 Ireland 1 Poland	3	3 Romania
F District			9	9 Romania	1	1 Romania	1	1 Romania
G District			1	Nationality not supplied	5	1 Ireland 1 Northern Ireland 3 Romania		
H District					1	1 Romania		

CHARGED OR	2006	Nationality	2007	Nationality	2008	Nationality	2009	Nationality
Belfast E			1	1 Romania	1	1 Bulgaria		
Belfast N					2	1 Slovakia 1 Romania		
Belfast S	4	3 Northern Ireland 1 Russia	2	1 Northern Ireland 1 Romania			4	4 Romania
Belfast W								
C District	2	2 Northern Ireland	1	1 Romania	1	1 Romania		
D District							2	2 Romania
E District	3	1 Northern Ireland 2 Poland	6	6 Romania	5	3 Romania 1 Ireland 1 Poland	3	3 Romania
F District			5	5 Romania	1	1 Romania	1	1 Romania
G District			1	Nationality not supplied	2	1 Ireland 1 Romania		
H District					1	1 Romania		

**CONVICTIONS**

YEAR	NATIONALITY	DATE	RESULT
2005	IRISH (REPUBLIC OF IRELAND)	14/03/2005	FINED £75
2005	POLE/POLISH	09/03/2005	FINED £25
2006	BRITISH - NORTHERN IRELAND	19/08/2006	FINED £50
2006	BRITISH - NORTHERN IRELAND	21/10/2006	IMPRISONMENT for 1 month wholly suspended for 2 years
2006	BRITISH - NORTHERN IRELAND	01/11/2006	CONDITIONAL DISCHARGE for 1 year
2006	BRITISH - NORTHERN IRELAND	18/05/2006	IMPRISONMENT for 1 month
2006	BRITISH - NORTHERN IRELAND	03/06/2006	IMPRISONMENT for 28 days
2006	BRITISH - NORTHERN IRELAND	03/06/2006	FINED £100
2006	BRITISH - NORTHERN IRELAND	16/06/2006	CONDITIONAL DISCHARGE for 12 months
2006	LATVIAN	21/03/2006	IMPRISONMENT for 1 month
2006	NORTHERN IRELAND	24/04/2006	FINED £75
2007	BRITISH - NORTHERN IRELAND	13/03/2007	FINED £100
2007	BRITISH - NORTHERN IRELAND	23/08/2007	FINED £75
2007	BRITISH - NORTHERN IRELAND	22/10/2007	FINED £100
2007	BRITISH - NORTHERN IRELAND	08/02/2007	CONDITIONAL DISCHARGE for 12 months
2007	BRITISH - NORTHERN IRELAND	18/01/2007	IMPRISONMENT for 1 month
2007	ROMANIAN	17/07/2007	BOUND OVER for 12 months
2007	ROMANIAN	09/02/2007	CONDITIONAL DISCHARGE for 2 years
2007	ROMANIAN	30/03/2007	FINED £50
2007	ROMANIAN	16/06/2007	FINED £100
2007	ROMANIAN	23/06/2007	CONDITIONAL DISCHARGE for 12 months
2007	ROMANIAN	23/06/2007	CONDITIONAL DISCHARGE for 12 months
2007	ROMANIAN	30/10/2007	IMPRISONMENT for 1 month wholly suspended for 2 years
2008	BRITISH - NORTHERN IRELAND	19/10/2008	CONDITIONAL DISCHARGE for 12 months
2008	IRISH (REPUBLIC OF IRELAND)	01/01/2008	CONDITIONAL DISCHARGE for 2 years
2008	IRISH (REPUBLIC OF IRELAND)	03/01/2008	CONDITIONAL DISCHARGE for 2 years
2008	POLE/POLISH	10/04/2008	CONDITIONAL DISCHARGE for 2 years
2008	ROMANIAN	20/12/2008	CONDITIONAL DISCHARGE for 12 months
2008	SLOVAK	20/10/2008	CONDITIONAL DISCHARGE for 1 year
2009	ROMANIAN	14/07/2009	IMPRISONMENT for 24 hours
2009	ROMANIAN	14/07/2009	IMPRISONMENT for 24 hours

**CAUTIONS**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>NATIONALITY</b>	<b>COUNT</b>
2007	ROMANIAN	3
2008	BRITISH - NORTHERN IRELAND	1
2008	ROMANIAN	4
2009	ROMANIAN	4
2009	UNKNOWN	1
		13