



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2010-01013

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Offences Involving Buckfast Tonic Wine

### 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

A Freedom of Information request showed that Buckfast was mentioned in 5,638 crime reports in Strathclyde Police reports from 2006-2009, equating to three a day on average. One in 10 of those offences were violent and the bottle was used as a weapon 114 times in that period.

Under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, for the period of 2006 to present, please explain how many times Buckfast tonic wine, is mentioned in PSNI crime reports,

#### Answer

Since 2006 there have been 102 incidents involving Buckfast Tonic wine.

The statistics provided relate to validated crimes where Buckfast was mentioned in the **initial report to police** and where the bottle was used as a weapon. There may have been other instances where a Buckfast bottle was used and this would have been revealed later as part of the investigation and therefore would not be included.

Occurrences involving Buckfast classified as "street drinking" or "rowdy/nuisance persons" were not examined as they are not crimes.

#### Question 2

How many of the offences were of a violent nature.

#### Answer

Of the 102 incidents, 8 of these offences could be deemed as violent crime.

Violent crime comprises three main offence groupings: offences against the person, sexual offences and robbery. What violent crime offences have in common is that they involve actual violence or the threat of violence. The degree of violence varies considerably, even between incidents in the same classification. The large majority of incidents categorised as violent crime do not actually involve any

significant injury to the victim, although some of the crimes not resulting in injury may still be traumatic for their victims eg threats to kill.

### **Question 3**

How many times a Buckfast bottle is noted as having been used as a weapon.

### **Answer**

Of the 102 incidents, a Buckfast bottle was used 21 times as a weapon.

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.