



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-00156

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Children Arrested for Vandalism/Criminal Damage

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 and the answers to your questions are as follows:

Question 1

The number of children, up to and including 16 years old, arrested for vandalism/criminal damage from January 1 2009 to December 31 2009?

Question 2

An age break down of the number of children arrested for vandalism from January 1 2009 to December 31 2009. From the age of six years of age up to and including 16. To clarify that would be age against number of kids arrested. For example six years of age, four arrests, seven years of age four arrests up to and including the age of 16.

Question 4

An age break down of the number of children arrested for vandalism from January 1 2010 to January 18 2010. From the age of six years of age up to and including 16. To clarify that would be age against number of kids arrested. For example six years of age, four arrests, seven years of age four arrests up to and including the age of 16.

Answer

Please see table below which answers questions to 1,2 & 4.

The figures shown include young people investigated, but not necessarily arrested, for Criminal Damage offences.

Children under the age of 10 years are not criminally responsible therefore their behaviour is not recorded as offence behaviour and they would not be arrested. However we do record children under 10 years who have been reported as being involved in such behaviour.

CRIMINAL DAMAGE AND PUBLIC ORDER RELATED BEHAVIOUR
1st JANUARY 2009 – 31st DECEMBER 2009

AGE	CRIMINAL DAMAGE	PUBLIC ORDER RELATED
6	2	0
7	4	0
8	5	1
9	11	1
10	34	2
11	63	2
12	138	10
13	209	27
14	275	51
15	320	67
16	330	68
Total	1391	229

NB: As the age of criminal responsibility is 10 years, the above figures for the under 10 years age range is behaviour-related only and not criminal.

Question 3

The number of children up to and including 16 years of age, arrested for vandalism/criminal damage from January 1 2010 to January 18 2010?

Question 5

The number of children, up to and including 16 years old, arrested for rioting /riotous behaviour from January 1 2010 to January 18 2010?

Question 6

An age break down of the number of children arrested for rioting/riotous behaviour from January 1 2010 to January 18 2010? From the age of six years of age up to and including 16. To clarify that would be age against number of kids arrested. For example six years of age, four arrests, and seven years of age four arrests up to and including the age of 16.

Answer

Please see table below which answers questions to 3,5 & 6.

These figures are not specifically for offences of rioting/riotous behaviour; however they are for Public Order Related offences which would include rioting/riotous behaviour, among others. Again these would not necessarily constitute arrests, rather the number investigated.

Children under the age of 10 years are not criminally responsible therefore their behaviour is not recorded as offence behaviour and they would not be arrested. However we do record children under 10 years who have been reported as being involved in such behaviour.

AGE PRIMARY CATEGORIES
1st JANUARY 2010 – 18th JANUARY 2010

AGE	CRIMINAL DAMAGE	PUBLIC ORDER RELATED
6	0	0
7	1	0
8	1	0
9	1	0
10	4	0
11	1	0
12	5	0
13	9	0
14	10	2
15	12	5
16	19	2
Total	63	9

NB: As the age of criminal responsibility is 10 years, the above figures for the under 10 years age range is behaviour-related only and not criminal.

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 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

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