



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-02905

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Arrests for Drugs Offences on School Grounds

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.

Regulation 5 of the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 provides that where two or more requests for information are made by one person, (or by different persons who appear to be working in concert) and where the requests relate, to any extent, to the same or similar information, and the requests are received within 60 working days of each other, that the requests may be aggregated for the purpose of calculating costs.

As this request relates to the same or similar information as request F-2010-02904 also submitted by you, the two requests have been aggregated for the purpose of calculating costs.

The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full. Questions contained in request F-2010-02904 are numbered 1 to 4 below and questions contained in request F-2010-02905 are numbered 5 to 9 below.

Question 1

How many pupils at secondary or grammar school level were arrested on suspicion of possession of drugs on school grounds? That is from January 1 2010 to October 8 2010.

Answer

This is similar to question 5 below and the answer is contained within the answer to that question as all of the arrests relate to secondary or grammar schools as far as can be ascertained. Two of the arrests occurred at a Community School, where it is not possible to say whether that is a High, Grammar or Secondary school.

Question 2

Please state lowest age and highest age and outcome ie charge?

Answer

This is similar to question 7 below and the answer is contained within the answer to that question.

Question 3

How many pupils at secondary or grammar school level were arrested on suspicion of dealing drugs in grounds of the schools they attend? That would be from January 1 2010 to October 8 2010

Answer

This is similar to question 8 below and the answer is contained within the answer to that question as all of the arrests relate to secondary or grammar schools as far as can be ascertained. Two of the arrests occurred at a Community School, where it is not possible to say whether that is a High, Grammar or Secondary school.

Question 4

Please state lowest age and highest age and outcome ie charge.

Answer

This is similar to question 9 below and the answer is contained within the answer to that question.

Question 5

How many children were arrested after being caught in possession or suspected of selling drugs on the grounds of the school they attend? The period is from January 1 2010 to October 10 2010

Answer

A total of 5 arrests were made between 01/01/2010 and 10/10/2010 for being caught in possession of, or suspected of selling drugs on the grounds of the school attend.

Question 6

Please state how many were arrested on possession and list drugs?

Answer

Arrests for possession:

1 arrest for possessing class A controlled drug (Amphetamine powder)

1 arrest for possession of a class B controlled drug (Cannabis)

1 arrest for possessing class C controlled drug (Diazepam)

Question 7

Please state lowest age and highest age and outcome ie charge.

Answer

Lowest age: 14

Highest age: 14

In each of the 3 arrests, no charges were issued, however 1 individual was reported to PPS

Question 8

Please state how many were arrested on suspicion of selling drugs on the grounds of the school they attend?

Answer

Arrests for selling drugs/intent to supply drugs on the grounds of the school that they attend:

1 arrest for possessing class B controlled drug with intent to supply (Cannabis)

1 arrest for possessing class B controlled drug with intent to supply (Cannabis)

Question 9

Please state lowest age and highest age and outcome ie charge?

Answer

Lowest age: 14

Highest age: 14

In each of the 2 arrests, no charges were issued to any of the arrested individuals however one individual was reported to the PPS.

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.psni.police.uk

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