



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2010-03321

**Keyword:** Operational Policing

**Subject:** Arrests Made In Football Grounds

### Request and Answer:

#### Question

(i) Details of the number of arrests made by the PSNI during the period 1st August 2008 to 30th May 2009 in football grounds of teams competing in the IFA Premiership. For information, the ground would be as follows:

Ballymena United, The Showgrounds, Ballymena  
Bangor, Clondeboye Park, Bangor  
Cliftonville, Solitude, Belfast  
Coleraine, The Showgrounds, Coleraine  
Crusaders, Seaview, Belfast  
Dungannon Swifts, Stangmore Park, Dungannon  
Glenavon, Mourneview Park, Lurgan  
Glentoran, The Oval, Belfast  
Institute, YMCA Grounds, Drumahoe  
Linfield, Windsor Park, Belfast  
Lisburn Distillery, New Grosvenor Stadium, Lisburn  
Newry City, The Showgrounds, Newry

(ii) I would also be grateful if you could breakdown the arrests by the type of offence committed if possible.

(iii) Details of the number of arrests made by the PSNI during the period 1st August 2009 to 30th May 2010 in football grounds of teams competing in the IFA Premiership. For information, the ground would be as follows:

Ballymena United, The Showgrounds, Ballymena  
Cliftonville, Solitude, Belfast  
Coleraine, The Showgrounds, Coleraine  
Crusaders, Seaview, Belfast

Dungannon Swifts, Stangmore Park, Dungannon  
Glenavon, Mourneview Park, Lurgan  
Glentoran, The Oval, Belfast  
Institute, YMCA Grounds, Drumahoe  
Linfield, Windsor Park, Belfast  
Lisburn Distillery, New Grosvenor Stadium, Lisburn  
Newry City, The Showgrounds, Newry  
Portadown FC, Shamrock Park, Portadown

(iv) I would also be grateful if you could breakdown the arrests by the type of offence committed if possible.

### **Answer**

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit) to provide you the applicant with a notice which states that fact.

It is estimated that the cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the "appropriate costs limit" under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450.

The information you requested is not held centrally within the PSNI and I contacted each District to ascertain a response for any football grounds located in their area. The Crime Analysts advised that they would firstly need to interrogate NICHE, the crime recording system, to ascertain the number of arrests for the general area around the respective ground/s. To obtain a true figure for arrests INSIDE the ground, each incident of an arrest for the respective location/s would need to be checked individually to confirm if the arrest took place inside the ground. Once the number of arrests were ascertained further research would be necessary to break down what any arrest was for and one district alone has estimated that this would take 24 hours which in itself is in excess of the number of hours permitted under legislation (18hours).

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice, and the request has therefore been closed.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland have also considered whether we can be of any assistance in terms of helping you refine your request to bring it under the cost limit however the nature and structure of the information unfortunately makes this impossible.

If you have any queries regarding your request or this 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.