Personal, Professional, Protective Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Request Number: F-2011-01038

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Arrest Statistics

Request and Answer:

Question

I would request information held in respect of the PSNI statistics;

1. 2005 - 2011 year on year, statistics on arrests made, all of Northern Ireland.
2. 2005 - 2011 year on year, statistics on voluntary attenders, all of Northern Ireland.
3. 2005 - 2011 year on year, statistics on offences which power of arrest could have been employed.
4. 2007 - 2011 year on year, statistics on detention "Necessity" grounds per codes of practice G.
5. 2007 - 2011 year on year, statistics on detention "Necessity" grounds where multiple grounds were employed.
6. 2005 - 2011 year on year, statistics on detentions by the Custody Sergeant not authorised.
7. 2005 - 2011 year on year, statistics on disposal/release methods.
8. Policy documents in respect of detention criteria to be used by Custody Sergeants.
9. The number of trained Custody Sergeants in the PSNI at present.
10. The number of Custody Sergeants that have been trained by the PSNI since the new legislation came into force in 2007.
11. The number of existing Custody Sergeants (pre 2007) trained since the commencement of the 2007 legislation.
12. Number of legal challenges made in respect of Necessity post 2007 legislative changes.

Answer

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), 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 (18hrs).

Information to provide a response to your request is not held by a particular department within the PSNI and I was required to contact several areas to obtain any information. With regard to Question 2 I have been advised that statistics on voluntary attenders is not held centrally within any

department and it would be necessary to contact each custody suite. The numbers are held in hard copy books and there is no electronic central register from which the figures for 2005 to 2011 could be easily extracted. Allowing 2 hours per custody suite would take approximately 40 hours and this time combined with time required to retrieve information with regard to the other questions would greatly exceed that permitted by legislation which is set at 18 hours.

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.

You may wish to submit a refined request in order that the cost of complying with your request may be facilitated within the 'appropriate limit'. In compliance with Section 16 of the Act, I have considered how your request may be refined to bring it under the appropriate limit however the nature and structure of the information unfortunately makes this impossible.

Submission of a refined request would be treated as a new request, and considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, including consideration of relevant Part II exemptions.

Although excess cost removes the PSNI's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, I have provided below the information which was retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

Answer 1
The PSNI Crime Recording systems show the number of arrests made per year are

2005 - 39,587
2006 - 41,177
2007 - 36,405
2008 - 37,301
2009 - 38,944
2010 - 39,144
2011 - 16,500

Answer 4
The PSNI Crime Recording systems show the statistics on detention "Necessity" grounds per codes of practice G are

2007 - 36,405
2008 - 37,301
2009 - 38,944
2010 - 39,144
2011 - 16, 494

Answer 5
The PSNI Crime Recording systems show the statistics on detention "Necessity" grounds where multiple grounds were employed are

2007 - 9,842
2008 - 10,020
2009 - 12,976
2010 - 12,917
2011 - 5,492

Answer 6

The PSNI Crime Recording systems show number of detentions not authorised are

2006 - 120
2007 - 500
2008 - 700
2009 - 937
2010 - 773
2011 - 232

Crime recording systems did not hold this information prior to 2006

Answer 7
Please note that in relation to Q7:

- Arrest records can have **multiple** disposals. e.g. charged for one offence, reported to PPS for another offence. Therefore the number of disposals will not exactly match the number of arrests.

- The main disposals that PSNI use have been listed.

	Bailed to police station	Charged to court	reported	Transferred to court
2006	6533	11476	18586	2718
2007	5748	10735	14939	3431
2008	6688	12440	13554	3668
2009	8673	13692	13475	3925
2010	9001	13799	11403	5085
2011	3883	5685	3493	2261

	Transfer to another force/agency	Transfer to prison
2006	357	928
2007	655	745
2008	666	853
2009	502	847
2010	343	1296
2011	169	624

Crime recording systems did not hold this information prior to 2006

Answer 8
The information requested is contained with the Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) (NI) Order and the PACE Codes of Practice Section C.

Answer 9
The current number of Sergeants trained as custody sergeants is 338.

Note: the number of Sergeants performing the role is 62

Answer 10
Since March 2007 the number of officers trained as custody sergeants is 246

Answer 11
The number of existing custody sergeants (pre 2007) trained since the commencement of the 2007 legislation is 31.

Answer 12
The PSNI Legal Services Branch have advised their records indicate that the number of legal

challenges made in respect of Necessity post 2007 is 9.

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.

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.