



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F2011 01754

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Seizure of Drugs

Request and Answer:

Question 1

How many houses in the Coleraine / Portrush / Portstewart areas have been searched since 1st January, 2009, to May 31st, 2011, where cannabis has been growing i.e. they the property is considered a 'cannabis factory'?

Question 2

How many people, following searches of these properties in the Coleraine / Portrush / Portstewart areas, have been arrested and charged with the relevant drugs offences since 1st January, 2009, to May 31st, 2011?

Question 3

What is the estimated street value in Pounds Sterling of cannabis seized following these searches from January 1st, 2009, to May 31st, 2011?

Question 4

What is the estimated weight in kilograms of cannabis seized following these searches from January 1st, 2009, to May 31st, 2011?

Question 5

How much money was set-aside, or what resources were available to police in Coleraine to tackle the problem of illegal drugs from January 1st, 2009 to December 1st, 2010?

Answer

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has now completed its search for the information you requested. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you.

Answer 1

There have been 21 seizure incidents of cannabis plants in the Coleraine police area for the period specified.

Answer 2

31 persons were arrested and 28 persons charged in connection with the 21 cannabis plant seizure incidents.

Answer 3

The cannabis plants seized following these seizures is estimated to be worth £300,000 in street value.

Statistics for April to May 2011 are provisional and may be subject to minor amendment.

Answer 4

PSNI does not hold this information.

Answer 5

No dedicated financial resources are allocated to this crime type, rather it is based on operational assessment considering risk, harm and scale of the investigation and as such resources are allocated accordingly.

This particular criminal activity impacts directly on individuals and the community therefore any report of illegal drug activity is investigated on a case by case basis.

Section 16 Advice and Assistance

However, I can provide the following information that may be of some assistance to you:

In relation to question 4 – while PSNI does not hold information regarding the weight of cannabis, there were 600 cannabis plants seized in the 21 seizures incidents.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate to contact 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.

