



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-03180

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Breath Tests

Request and Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has now completed its search for the information you requested and the answers to your questions are as follows.

Question 1

The number of initial roadside tests carried out in each financial year 2011/10; 2010/09; 2009/08 and 2000/01

Question 2

The number of roadside tests failed in each financial year 2011/10; 2010/09; 2009/08 and 2000/01

Answer

The table below provides the number of roadside breath tests carried out in 2001 and 2008 – 2011.

Year	Total Number of Breath Tests	Total Number of Positive Tests
2001	11161	1660
2008/2009	16600	3090
2009/2010	44644	3308
2010/2011	39947	3267

The number of positive tests would equate to the number of failed tests,

The PSNI Roads Policing Department has advised that figures for 2001 represent a calendar year total and the PSNI took delivery of a new breath testing system in 2009 which is capable of automatic capture of data, rather than relying on officer reporting to capture the total tally of breath tests conducted. This will help to explain the disparity in the number of recorded breath tests conducted.

Question 3

The number of tests carried out in custody and the nationality of those tested in each financial year 2011/10; 2010/09; 2009/08 and 2000/01

Question 4

The total number of people who failed a test in custody tested in each financial year 2011/10; 2010/09; 2009/08 and 2000/01

Question 5

The nationality where given of those who failed the test in custody in each financial year 2011/10; 2010/09; 2009/08 and 2000/01

Answer

In an attempt to provide a response to questions 3, 4 and 5 the PSNI Central Statistics branch interrogated the NICHE recording systems used within the PSNI.

Motoring offence data from NICHE is a developmental area for Central Statistics branch and we are moving towards reporting on persons arrested and/or charged for various categories of motoring offences. One of these categories relates to alcohol and drugs and I have listed below the offences that are included in this category.

DRIVING WITH EXCESS ALCOHOL IN BREATH
DRIVING WHEN UNFIT THROUGH DRINK OR DRUG
DRIVING WITH EXCESS ALCOHOL IN BLOOD
IN CHARGE WHEN UNFIT THROUGH DRINK OR DR
IN CHARGE WITH EXCESS ALCOHOL IN BREATH
FAILING TO PROVIDE SPECIMEN WHEN DRIVING
FAILING TO PROVIDE SPECIMEN OF BREATH FOR
PRELIMINARY TEST
FAIL TO PROVIDE SPECIMEN WHEN DRIVING WI
FAILING TO PROVIDE SPECIMEN WHEN IN CHARGE UNFIT
IN CHARGE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE WITH EXCESS ALCOHOL IN
BLOOD
FAIL TO PROVIDE SPECIMEN WHEN IN CHARGE WITH
EXCESS ALCOHOL
DRIVING WITH EXCESS ALCOHOL IN URINE
ATTEMPTING TO DRIVE WHEN UNFIT THROUGH DRINK OR
DRUGS
CAUSING GRIEVOUS BODILY INJURY BY DRIVING
CARELESSLY WHEN UNFIT
CAUSING DEATH OR GBI BY DRIVING CARELESSLY WITH
EXCESS ALCOHOL
CAUSING GRIEVOUS BODILY INJURY BY DRIVING
CARELESSLY WITH EXCESS ALCOHOL
ATTEMPTING TO DRIVE WITH EXCESS ALCOHOL IN BREATH
CAUSING DEATH BY DRIVING CARELESSLY WHEN UNFIT
IN CHARGE WITH EXCESS ALCOHOL IN URINE

Central Statistics have provided in the table on page 4 figures which includes nationality for persons who have been arrested and/or charged for an alcohol/drugs related motoring offence as for someone to be arrested/charged for such an offence it would be safe to assume that they had tested positive for the same.

As NICHE was not introduced until 2007 we have been unable to supply figures for 2000/01 and to provide the data for 2010/11 would take the time to respond in excess of the time permitted by legislation (18hrs) thus engaging an over cost response. The time taken to provide the information to date is already at 14 hours and we have been advised to provide for 2010/11 would take this well in excess of 18.

Please note that Central Statistics Branch is unable to stand over the quality of the figures provided as work is ongoing on this data and as yet the figures are unvalidated. It should also be noted that the recording of nationality on niche is dependant on the person inputting the data and as such the

nationality of everyone may not be captured.

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.

The number of persons arrested and/or charged for motoring offences related to Alcohol or Drugs by Nationality

2007/08

Northern Ireland;	4006
United Kingdom;	498
Ireland;	499
Lithuania;	400
Poland;	244
England;	110
Latvia;	85
Slovakia;	48
Portugal;	41
Scotland;	35
Missing/Other	296
Total	6262

2008/09

Northern Ireland;	3613
United Kingdom;	592
Ireland;	450
Poland;	255
Lithuania;	251
England;	112
Latvia;	64
Portugal;	34
Slovakia;	33
Scotland;	21
Other/Missing	249
Total	5674

2009/10

Northern Ireland;	4265
United Kingdom;	731
Ireland;	533
Lithuania;	254
Poland;	225
England;	85
Latvia;	74
Scotland;	34
Portugal;	24
Slovakia;	24
Other/Missing	474
Total	6723

Notes:

Central Statistics Branch are unable to stand over the quality of these figures as work is ongoing on this data and as yet these figures are unvalidated.