



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-03922

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Disabled Parking Badges

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

Please can you tell me how many people have been charged with offences related to dishonestly using disabled parking badges during the last ten years.

If you do not have figures going back ten years, I would be happy to accept the yearly figures you do have.

Could you break the figures down by calendar year.

If you have the data, I would also like to know the ages and occupations of those prosecuted as well as the level of the fine and/or other penalty imposed against them.

Answer

In order to provide a response to your request I contacted the PSNI Information and Communication Services (ICS) department who maintain the PSNI Crime Recording Systems and the Fixed Penalty Processing Centre (FPPC) who deal with the issue of Fixed Penalties.

ICS advised they searched under the offence code "wrongful use of a disabled persons badge" and the details obtained are as follows:

In 1995/96 there were 2 people convicted, one on two counts the other on four counts.

In 2006/07 one person was convicted

In 2007/08 one person was convicted, another was charged but was not convicted.

FPPC advised the figures below relate to the non endorsable offence of "wrongful use of a disabled badge which would be issued when people who are not disabled use a parking space which is designated for disabled use and does not cover any criminal element.

2001 – 6 2002 – 8 2003 - 5 2004 – 11 2005 – 13 2006 – 5 2007 – 2 2008 – 3 2009 – 1

These figures are by calendar year and do not include tickets that were subsequently cancelled. FPPC do not record ages and occupations but for your information the fine for this offence is £30.

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.