



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-00717

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Number Of Officers Who Performed No Arrests

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 answer to your question is as follows.

Question

How many police officers have performed no arrests in the financial year to 31st March 2010?

Clarification - If you could provide the average as you have set out below then that would be much appreciated. Response based on the average number of officers in service in the financial year.

Answer

As previously advised in clarification the numbers of police officers changes on a daily basis due to retirement, resignation, recruitment etc and the relevant department would be unable to retrieve (completely accurate) details required to provide a response to your request.

Human Resources provided the establishment of regular officers on the first of each month and we calculated the average number of regular officers for the year 01/04/2009 to 31/03/2010 to be 7317. Crime recording systems were interrogated using the average and it was shown that 4023 regular officers performed no arrests.

Please note that these figures should not be regarded as being specific because the average is only a rough figure.

The number of arrests per officer will not accurately reflect work undertaken by the Police Service to keep the community safe. Arrests are more regularly made by those officers in visible roles, responding to 999 calls; attending traffic accidents; and patrolling neighbourhoods. But there are also officers in vitally important operational roles that are unlikely to involve making arrests. Such roles include handling intelligence, delivering training, processing offenders through the criminal justice system.

Recognising the demand for frontline visible policing, the PSNI has moved almost 600 additional officers to neighbourhood and response duties as compared to June 2009. This has been achieved despite reducing budgets.

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.psnj.police.uk

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.