



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2011-01564

**Keyword:** Operational Policing

**Subject:** Stop and Search Statistics

### Request and Answer:

The Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you have requested.

### Question 1

I would ask that this information is forwarded to me or that a reason for not issuing it compatible with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is stated.

Geographical Breakdown:

Of stops and searches/questions by street name.

### Question 2

Arrests/charges:

2(a): Available information on offences persons arrested for (and on % of arrests for which no information is available)

2(b): Information on subsequent charges brought further to the above arrests;

### Question 3

Background monitoring:

3(a): A breakdown of gender and ethnicity by Police Area/Council level.

Could you further provide us with the statistics for the fourth quarter of 2010/11 (as these are not available on the PSNI website)

### Answer

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

Statistical information in relation to stop and search is held on a separate database from arrests/charges. In order to provide arrests/charges as a result of 'stop and search' would require the creation of a script to enable the relevant data to be extracted from PSNI's recording systems. This process in addition to the retrieval of geographical and background information would exceed the cost limit of 18 hours.

The PSNI has also considered if it can assist to help you refine your request, to bring it under the cost limit, however the nature and structure of the information, unfortunately makes this impossible.

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.

In relation to your enquiry regarding statistics for the fourth quarter of 2010/11, I can advise you that this information is now available on the PSNI website and can be accessed via the link provided below:

[http://www.psni.police.uk/pace\\_tact\\_jsa\\_nipb\\_q4\\_201011\\_internet.pdf](http://www.psni.police.uk/pace_tact_jsa_nipb_q4_201011_internet.pdf)

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](mailto: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](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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