



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-00150
Keyword: Operational Policing
Subject: Young People In Possession Of Weapons

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

For the years 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 so far:

How many young people aged between 13 and 19 were:

A. Found by police in possession of weapons?

Answer

The PSNI Information and Communication Systems Branch have provided the numbers of young people aged between 13 and 19 who were charged/reported in response to Question 1 A

2008: 394
2009: 366
2010: 439
2011: 27

B. Arrested by police for being in possession of weapons?

Answer

The numbers arrested by police for being in possession of weapons are as follows

2008: 180
2009: 156
2010: 184
2011: 10

C. Cautioned for being in possession of weapons?

Answer

2008: 14
2009: 5
2010: 65
2011: 13

Question 2

For the question above, could you please provide a breakdown as to the numbers of each kind of weapons that were found? (i.e. types of knives, types of guns, etc.)

Answer

The PSNI Information and Communication Systems Department have advised that the systems within the PSNI are unable to be interrogated to such a level that would enable us to provide the kind of weapons that were found. Under our Section 16 duty to advise and assist we have provided a breakdown of the actual offences the figures in answers to question 1 refer to and I hope you will find this useful. The offences concerned relate to details of "weapons", "blade or point" or "knife".

A. Found by police in possession of weapons? (detected)

2008:

- (305) - possessing offensive weapon in public place
- (44) - armed with offensive weapon with intent to commit offence
- (41) - possessing article with blade or point in public place
- (2) - possession etc. Of a prohibited weapon (discharge of electricity or noxious gas/liquid)
- (1) - possessing offensive weapon on school premises
- (1) - possessing article with blade or point on school premises

2009:

- (278) - possessing offensive weapon in public place
- (9) - possession etc. of a prohibited weapon (discharge of electricity or noxious gas/liquid)
- (45) - armed with offensive weapon with intent to commit offence
- (31) - possessing article with blade or point in public place
- (1) - possessing article with blade or point on school premises
- (2) - possessing offensive weapon on school premises

2010:

- (68) - armed with offensive weapon with intent to commit offence
- (311) - possessing offensive weapon in public place
- (54) - possessing article with blade or point in public place
- (1) - possessing article with blade or point on school premises
- (5) - possession etc. of a prohibited weapon (discharge of electricity or noxious gas/liquid)

2011:

- (18) - possessing offensive weapon in public place
- (3) - possessing article with blade or point in public place
- (6) - armed with offensive weapon with intent to commit offence

B. Arrested by police for being in possession of weapons? (detected and arrested)

2008:

- (145) - possessing offensive weapon in public place
- (20) - possessing article with blade or point in public place
- (13) - armed with offensive weapon with intent to commit offence
- (1) - possession etc. of a prohibited weapon (discharge of electricity or noxious gas/liquid)
- (1) - possessing article with blade or point on school premises

2009:

- (124) - possessing offensive weapon in public place
- (7) - possession etc. of a prohibited weapon (discharge of electricity or noxious gas/liquid)
- (15) - possessing article with blade or point in public place
- (10) - armed with offensive weapon with intent to commit offence

2010:

- (25) - possessing article with blade or point in public place
- (136) - possessing offensive weapon in public place
- (21) - armed with offensive weapon with intent to commit offence
- (2) - possession etc. of a prohibited weapon (discharge of electricity or noxious gas/liquid)

2011:

- (3) - armed with offensive weapon with intent to commit offence
- (6) - possessing offensive weapon in public place
- (1) - possessing article with blade or point in public place

C. Cautioned for being in possession of weapons?

2008:

- (12) - possessing offensive weapon in public place
- (2) - possessing offensive weapon on school premises

2009:

- (1) - possessing offensive weapon in public place
- (4) - possessing article with blade or point on school premises

2010:

- (49) - possessing offensive weapon in public place
- (13) - possessing article with blade or point in public place
- (2) - possessing offensive weapon on school premises
- (1) - armed with offensive weapon with intent to commit offence

2011:

- (12) - possessing offensive weapon in public place
- (1) - possessing article with blade or point in public place

Question 3

For the questions 1 and 2 above, please provide a breakdown as to where these arrests/finds/cautions took place? (i.e. county, town or city)

Answer

The breakdown has been provided below illustrating the District Command Unit (DCU) of arrest and with regard to cautions the DCU the offence occurred in.

A. Found by police in possession of weapons? (detected)

2008:

dcu_of_arrest	count
BELN	54
COLE	41
BELS	34
CRAI	26
FERM	19

BELW	19
LISB	19
DOWN	19
NEWM	18
FOYL	16
OMAG	16
ARMA	14
BELE	14
NABB	13
NDOW	13
ANTR	11
BANB	10
BMEN	9
DAST	8
COOK	5
STRB	4
LARN	3
CREA	3
CFER	2
LIMA	2
MOYL	1
ARDS	1

2009:

dcu_of_arrest	count
BELS	54
BELN	46
CRAI	33
LISB	28
ANTR	21
FOYL	20
COLE	17
BELE	16
DOWN	15
NEWM	15
FERM	15
BMEN	12
ARDS	10
NABB	9
BELW	8
BANB	7

OMAG	7
ARMA	6
DAST	5
COOK	4
BMON	3
STRB	3
NDOW	3
CREA	3
CFER	2
LIMA	2
MFEL	1
MOYL	1

2010:

dcu_of_arrest	count
BELS	51
BELN	48
BELW	34
CRAI	29
FOYL	28
DOWN	27
ANTR	25
LISB	22
FERM	18
BMEN	17
NABB	16
NEWM	15
NDOW	14
COLE	14
BELE	11
BANB	10
DAST	10
LIMA	9
STRB	9
ARDS	8
MFEL	5
BMON	5
LARN	4
COOK	3
OMAG	3
CREA	2
CFER	1

ARMA	1
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2011:

dcu_of_arrest	count
BELN	5
NEWM	3
LISB	3
DOWN	3
BELS	3
BMEN	2
NDOW	1
NABB	1
MOYL	1
LIMA	1
FOYL	1
DAST	1
BELW	1
BANB	1

B. Arrested by police for being in possession of weapons? (detected and arrested)

2008:

arrest_dcu	count
BELN	24
BELS	19
COLE	19
CRAI	11
FERM	9
NEWM	8
BELE	8
FOYL	8
ANTR	8
NDOW	7
BANB	7
LISB	7
OMAG	6
DAST	6
BMEN	6
COOK	5
DOWN	5
BELW	4

NABB	3
ARMA	3
STRB	2
CREA	2
CFER	1
LARN	1
ARDS	1

2009:

arrest_dcu	count
BELS	26
BELN	22
LISB	11
FERM	11
CRAI	11
ANTR	10
FOYL	8
COLE	7
ARDS	7
BMEN	6
BELE	5
DOWN	5
BELW	4
BMON	4
COOK	3
DAST	2
NABB	2
NDOW	2
NEWM	2
BANB	2
OMAG	2
CFER	2
STRB	1
ARMA	1

2010:

arrest_dcu	count
BELS	21
FOYL	16
BELN	13
BELW	13
CRAI	11

LISB	11
NABB	10
BMEN	10
ANTR	9
DOWN	9
FERM	8
BANB	7
COLE	6
NEWM	6
NDOW	5
ARDS	5
DAST	5
LIMA	4
STRB	3
BELE	3
LARN	2
COOK	2
MFEL	2
OMAG	2
ARMA	1

2011:

arrest_dcu	count
NEWM	1
NABB	1
MOYL	1
LISB	1
FOYL	1
FERM	1
BELS	1
BELN	1
BANB	1
ANTR	1

C. Cautioned for being in possession of weapons?

2008:

offence_dcu	count
ANTR	1
BELN	2
BANB	1
NEWM	1

BELS	1
FERM	1
LARN	1
DOWN	1
NDOW	2
OMAG	1
CRAI	1
BELE	1

2009:

offence_dcu	count
ANTR	4
NEWM	1

2010:

offence_dcu	count
BELE	8
NABB	6
FERM	6
Not Specified	6
COLE	5
ANTR	4
NDOW	4
BELS	4
ARDS	3
FOYL	3
BELN	3
BELW	3
ARMA	2
CRAI	2
OMAG	2
CREA	1
LISB	1
NEWM	1
BMEN	1

2011:

offence_dcu	count
NEWM	2

FERM	2
BELS	2
NABB	1
FOYL	1
DOWN	1
CREA	1
CRAI	1
BMON	1
BELN	1

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.