



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2012-00197

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Arrests in 2011

### Request and Answer:

#### Question

Clarification was received from the requester.

In 2011, how many little people/midgets/dwarves did your police force arrest?  
What were their crimes? If there were a lot of arrests, what were the main charges?

#### Question

In 2011, what was the oldest person your police force arrested for drunk and disorderly?

#### Question

What was the youngest person arrested for being drunk and disorderly?

#### Question

“What is the strangest ‘weapon’ someone was arrested for brandishing, last year?

By ‘strangest’ weapon, I mean things people wouldn’t normally consider weapons, such as: Fruits, vegetables and other foodstuffs, children’s toys, false limbs, trees (or parts of), cushions (or other soft furnishings), bikes, books, magazines, newspapers and other paper items.

If I could get clarification whether people were arrested for wielding any of the above items, I would be very grateful.

#### Question

What is the item with the largest value that someone was arrested for shoplifting?

#### Question

What is the item of the lowest value someone was arrested for shoplifting?

#### Question

What is the item with the largest value that someone was arrested for stealing?

#### Question

What is the item of the lowest value someone was arrested for stealing?

## **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.

In an attempt to retrieve the information requested I contacted the Information and Communications Services Branch (ICS) who hold the information centrally. However, to retrieve the information requested would involve a manual trawl through each arrest record. During 2011 there were 38,850 arrests made and to allow 20 minutes to examine the records it is therefore estimated that the total time required to extract the information would take an estimated 12,950 hours.

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.

You may wish to submit a refined request in order that the cost of complying with your request may be facilitated within the 'appropriate limit'. In compliance with Section 16 of the Act, I have considered how your request may be refined to bring it under the appropriate limit however the nature and structure of the information requested makes this impossible.

Submission of a refined request would be treated as a new request, and considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, including consideration of relevant Part II exemptions.

Although excess cost removes the PSNI's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, I have provided below the information which was retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

In 2011, the oldest person arrested was aged 75, on the date of arrest.  
In 2011, the youngest person arrested was aged 12, on the date of arrest.

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.