



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F 2012 01078

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Cannabis Plant Seizures

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. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you.

Question 1

How many cannabis factories were detected in 2011?

Question 2

How many plants were recovered in each cannabis factory?

Question 3

Where were these factories located? (by nearest town/city)

Question 4

How many cannabis factories were detected in 2010 and what was the total number of cannabis plants found?

Question 5

How many cannabis factories were detected in 2009 and what was the total number of cannabis plants found?

Question 6

How many cannabis factories were detected in 2008 and what was the total number of cannabis plants found?

Question 7

How many cannabis factories were detected in 2007 and what was the total number of cannabis plants found?

Response

PSNI Statistics Branch does not hold information on cannabis factories. This response therefore includes information on the number of cannabis plant seizures of 50 or more plants and uses these

as an approximation of the number of cannabis plant factories.

Answer 1

In 2011 there were 34 detections involving seizures of 50 or more plants.

Answer 2 and 3

Table 1, below, details the number of plants recovered in seizures of 50 or more plants in 2011 and where these seizures were located (by police area).

Table 1

Seizure Occurrence	Number of Plants Seized	Police Area
1	376	Carrickfergus
2	150	Newry & Mourne
3	618	East Belfast
4	249	Castlereagh
5	268	Down
6	149	Newry & Mourne
7	56	Newry & Mourne
8	146	Coleraine
9	123	Newtownabbey
10	85	Carrickfergus
11	500	North Belfast
12	75	West Belfast
13	256	Dungannon & South Tyrone
14	416	West Belfast
15	81	Down
16	300	Banbridge
17	313	Banbridge
18	163	Down
19	450	Newtownabbey
20	94	Banbridge
21	219	Newtownards
22	88	East Belfast
23	600	Newry & Mourne
24	100	Banbridge
25	310	Craigavon
26	400	Lisburn
27	80	Armagh
28	62	East Belfast
29	75	Newry & Mourne
30	56	Newry & Mourne
31	840	Newtownabbey
32	195	Banbridge
33	200	Newry & Mourne
34	80	Newtownabbey

Answer 4, 5, 6 and 7

Table 2, below, gives details of the number of cannabis plant seizures of 50 or more plants for 2007 to 2011 and the total number of cannabis plants found.

Table 2

Year	Number of Seizures	Number of Plants Seized
2007	14	1,413
2008	67	30,168
2009	18	5,300
2010	25	7,346
2011	34	8,173

Note: 2011 statistics reported are provisional.

Source: Statistics Branch, Police Service of Northern Ireland, Lisnasharragh.

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.