Personal, Professional, Protective Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Request Number: F-2012-01020

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Police Call Outs to Pubs and Clubs in Belfast

Request and Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full.

Question

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I ask for a disclosure of the following information relating to the pubs and clubs in Belfast which have had the most police call outs in 2011 and so far in 2012.

In particular, I would like the name and location of all the pubs/clubs that police have been called to or in the vicinity thereof, the number of times in 2011 and 2012 that police were called to each pub/club and a breakdown of the specific reason police were called (burglary, violence etc).

Clarification

On March 13, 2012, we advised as follows;

“Unfortunately, PSNI computer systems are not primarily set up to provide information of this nature and to retrieve the information requested would mean that the individual address of each licensed premises in Belfast would have to be manually searched to determine whether police have been called out to the premises and the reason for the call out. This process would then have to be repeated for the road/street where the licensed premises is located to determine whether police have been called to the vicinity of the licensed premises. There are over 500 licensed premises in B District alone (South and East Belfast) and each of these would require to be checked individually. Initial enquiries have indicated that this process would greatly exceed the appropriate FOI cost limit.

However, the PSNI's Central Statistics Unit have advised that, subject to any exemptions that may apply, they may be able to provide **a list of recorded offences by Home Office Crime Category identified as occurring at Licensed Club, Hotel/Motel, Private Club, Public House or Wine Bar. Central Statistics Unit are unable to define the geographical area covered by Belfast but would suggest using the four Belfast Policing areas North/South/East/West Belfast as a proxy.**

You subsequently agreed to refine your request to receive the information that the Central Statistics

Unit could provide.

Answer
Please see the table at the end of this correspondence which details recorded crime identified as occurring at Licensed Club, Hotel/Motel, Private Club, Public House or Wine bar in Belfast in 2011 and so far in 2012.

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.

Recorded crime identified as occurring at Licenced Club, Hotel/motel, Private club, Public house or Wine bar in Belfast

Please Note: This information is based on data taken from a live crime recording system and may be subject to change.

	East Belfast	North Belfast	South Belfast	West Belfast
Violence Against the Person	138	43	487	29
Sexual Offences	3	1	15	0
Burglary	2	5	39	5
Robbery	2	0	1	0
Theft	61	33	335	10
Fraud and forgery	2	0	11	0
Criminal Damage	9	7	48	4
Drug Offences	9	1	18	0
Other Miscellaneous Offences	2	1	3	1
Total	**228**	**91**	**957**	**49**

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch