



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2012-01377

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Arrests of Youngest and Oldest Offenders

### 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

I am writing to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act for information on the age of the youngest individual arrested during calendar year 2011 for each of the following offences, the age of the oldest individual arrested during calendar year 2011 for each of the following offences, and a summary description of the alleged offence for the following offences:

- Possession of cannabis
- Possession of heroin
- Possession of ecstasy
- Possession of cocaine
- Dealing cannabis
- Dealing heroin
- Dealing ecstasy
- Dealing cocaine
- Taking a vehicle without consent
- Drink driving
- Possession of a firearm
- Possession of a knife
- Rape
- Murder
- Attempted murder
- GBH
- ABH

### Answer

The information you have requested is held on 2 different recording systems and is provided separately in the tables below.

Please see the table below detailing the age of the youngest and oldest individuals arrested during the calendar year 2011 for the drug offences requested.

Drug Offence	Age of individual arrested	
	Youngest	Oldest
Possession of cannabis	14	64
Possession of heroin	23	43
Possession of ecstasy	14	65
Possession of cocaine	16	65
Dealing cannabis	13	63
Dealing heroin	21	42
Dealing ecstasy	17	47
Dealing cocaine	19	59

In the table above, where an individual is arrested for a possession offence and a dealing offence, the dealing offence will take precedence. 2011 statistics reported are provisional and may be subject to change. It should be noted that drugs identified as being of one type may later be proven to be another, subject to forensic analysis.

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

Please see the table below detailing arrests for the remaining offences requested.

Arrest Information Requested	Age of youngest person arrested in 2011	Reason for arrest
Taking a vehicle without consent	13	Taking a motor vehicle without consent
Drink driving	14	Driving when unfit through drink or drug
Possession of a firearm	14	Possession of firearm in suspicious circumstances
Possession of a knife	14	Possessing article with blade or point in public place
Rape	15	Rape (Common Law)
Murder	19	Murder
Attempted murder	14	Attempted Murder
GBH	12	Grievous bodily harm with intent
ABH	13	Assault occasioning Actual Bodily Harm
Arrest Information Requested	Age of oldest person arrested in 2011	Reason for arrest
Taking a vehicle without consent	62	Taking a motor vehicle without consent
Drink driving	95	Driving when unfit through drink or drug
Possession of a firearm	68	Possession of firearm in suspicious circumstances
Possession of a knife	65	Possessing article with blade or point in public place
Rape	72	Rape (Common Law)
Murder	65	Murder
Attempted murder	67	Attempted Murder
GBH	67	Grievous bodily harm with intent
ABH	77	Assault occasioning Actual Bodily Harm

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](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.psnj.police.uk](http://www.psnj.police.uk)

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