



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2012-02243

**Keyword:** Operational Policing

**Subject:** Alcohol in Public Places

### 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 1

Following the disgraceful scenes at Helens Bay/Crawfordsburn Country Park.

Could you tell me the Rules and Law regarding alcohol in these areas.

Is unopened alcohol allowed i.e. if you were walking along the coastal path with alcohol unopened in a bag.

### Answer

There are no restrictions on people carrying un-opened items of alcohol on the coastal path. The Council bye-law only relates to consumption of alcohol. Police do have additional powers if the individuals involved are under 18 years old. North Down Borough Council may be able to provide information relevant to your request and their website can be accessed via the link provided below:

[http://www.northdown.gov.uk/frm\\_contact.asp?pid=249&area=7](http://www.northdown.gov.uk/frm_contact.asp?pid=249&area=7)

### Question 2

What are the rules or law regarding someone drinking in the sea at Helens Bay/Crawfordsburn Country Park.

### Question 3

Does this become Maritime Law.

### Answer

In relation to questions 2 and 3 of your request, searches were conducted however these searches failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided. PSNI do not hold any information in relation to people drinking in the sea. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

For your information, the Council bye-law is in relation to consumption of alcohol and includes beaches, paths and open spaces in a designated area. The Maritime Enforcement Agency is of the opinion that if a person is stood in the water, they are still on the beach and the Council bye-law applies. If they are in a boat or dingy, they are covered by the Maritime Law which have no offences for drinking unless they are a commercial vessel. The Maritime Enforcement Agency, Southampton may hold information relevant to your request.

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.psnipolice.uk](http://www.psnipolice.uk)

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