



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2012-01179

**Keyword:** Operational Policing

**Subject:** Detained persons taken to hospitals

### Request and Answer:

#### Question

The number of detained persons taken to hospital as a result of mental health issues in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011.

#### Question

The number of detained persons taken to hospital as a result of an injury or assault in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011.

#### Question

The total number of detained persons taken to hospital in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011.

#### 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.

The information requested in relation to the service is not held in a central location within the PSNI but is held within each of the 8 Districts and Information Communication Services (ICS) Branch. To retrieve the information I contacted each District and ICS and asked for them to provide time estimates as to how long it would take to retrieve the information requested. I have been advised that although the information is held on NICHE it would require a manual trawl of each custody record of all detained persons to firstly determine if they were taken to hospital and secondly the reason for this. Although an individual trawl would provide the information for each question it would take days to complete. By way of example Grosvenor Road Custody suite alone had 1944 persons detained in custody in 2011. It is therefore estimated that the total time required for all Districts and ICS to locate, extract the information requested would take an estimated 1214 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 unfortunately 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.

The total number of detained persons taken to hospital in 2010 was 902 and in 2011 the total was 941.

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

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