



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2012-02480

Keyword: Road Policing

Subject: Mobile Phone Related Road Traffic Incidents

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

We are seeking the same information from every Police Authority and would like to know the number of road traffic accidents in which a mobile phone has been noted as playing a contributing role in the incident.

Please provide details on an annual basis for the last three years available data.

In your response please include:

The total number of road accidents for each year.

Answer

Please see the table below detailing recorded Injury Road Traffic Collisions from 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2012.

Year	Injury Collisions
2009/10	6,187
2010/11	5,547
2011/12	5,639

Question 2

The total number of mobile phone related accidents for each year. Where possible for each mobile phone related accident please include:

- The date of each accident
- Location of accident, including road classification
- A brief description of the incident, including how many / type of vehicles involved
- Information on the mobile phone's contributing role in the incident (i.e. was driver phoning, texting)

at time, etc)

e) Injuries sustained due to the accident

f) Charges brought in relation to the accident

Answer

Please see the table below detailing recorded Injury Road Traffic Collisions from 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2012 where the principal causation factor was using a mobile phone.

Year	Injury Collisions
2009/10	7
2010/11	8
2011/12	3

Further details provided by Statistics Branch and Information & Communication Systems are contained in the table below however, road classifications are not recorded.

(a) Date	(b) Location	(c) (d) Brief Description	(e) Injuries	(f) Charges
Jun-09	West Belfast	Car driver on his phone came out of filling station and cut across 2 nd car resulting in collision	1 seriously injured	Driving without due care and attention. Using a mobile phone whilst driving.
Jun-09	Newry & Mourne	Car driver holding a mobile phone collided with the car in front.	1 slightly injured	Driving without due care and attention.
Jun-09	North Belfast	Car had stopped at roundabout and was driven into by second car. The driver of first car alleges the other driver was on their mobile phone.	1 slightly injured	Failing to stop where accident occurred causing injury. Failing to remain where accident occurred causing injury. Failing to report an accident whereby injury was caused. Dangerous driving
Aug-09	Omagh	One vehicle collision in which a car hit a traffic island. On investigation, a back seat passenger informed police that the driver had been holding her mobile phone at the time of the collision.	3 slightly injured	Dangerous Driving
Aug-09	Newtownabbey	Collision involving a car which struck an Ambulance. Driver of the car was seen to be on his mobile phone at the time of the collision.	1 slightly injured	Using a motor vehicle without insurance. Driving without due care and attention. Using a mobile phone whilst driving.
Dec-09	Newry & Mourne	Driver observed to be on his phone by police. He pulled his car into the side of the road and the police stopped behind him. The driver then reversed his vehicle into the front of the police car.	1 slightly injured	Using a mobile phone whilst driving. Driving without due care and attention.
Jan-10	Castlewellan	Single vehicle collision in which a car crashed over a hedge and flipped on its roof. Driver suspected to be on mobile phone.	1 seriously injured	None

Apr-10	Craigavon	Car driver alleged a van came round the corner half on the other side of the road and collided with his car. Van driver suspected of being on his mobile phone.	1 slightly injured	Driving without due care and attention. Failing to report damage only accident. Aiding and abetting failing to stop – damage only accident. Failing to remain where accident occurred causing damage.
Jun-10	Cookstown	While performing traffic control duties a constable was struck by a passing car whose driver was using her mobile phone.	1 slightly injured	Driving without due care and attention. Using a mobile phone whilst driving.
Jun-10	East Belfast	Van driver drove into rear end of car in front. Observed to have been on his mobile phone at time of collision.	1 slightly injured	Using a mobile phone whilst driving. Driving without due care and attention. Using a motor vehicle without insurance. Failing to produce insurance.
Oct-10	Cookstown	Pedestrian crossing road was clipped by a vehicle as a car pulled out from a stationary position. Driver distracted by looking at mobile phone.	1 slightly injured	Driving without due care and attention. Using a mobile phone whilst driving.
Oct-10	South Belfast	Pedestrian states that a car drove over her foot. The driver was observed to be on her mobile phone.	1 serious injury	None
Nov-10	Castlereagh	Van driver seen to be on his phone was pulled over by police. While still on his phone he reversed into the police car. He states that he was distracted by phone and had not noticed police vehicle behind him.	1 slightly injured	Driving without due care and attention. Using a mobile phone whilst driving.
Dec-10	Craigavon	Taxi driver alleged to be texting on his phone drove into the back of another car.	2 slightly injured	Driving without due care and attention.
Dec-10	Newtownards	The driver of first car noticed second car coming towards her in which the driver was looking down at her mobile phone. This resulted in a head on collision when the second car came onto the first car's side of the road.	1 slightly injured	Driving without due care and attention.
Jun-11	Newry & Mourne	Single vehicle collision involving car hitting lamppost. Driver states she looked away from the road to answer her mobile phone.	1 slightly injured	Unaccompanied L Driver (For offences committed after 15 Nov 2007). No L plates displayed (For offences committed after 15 Nov 2007). Aggravated vehicle taking causing damage to property. Failing to stop where accident occurred causing damage. Driving when unfit through drink or drug. Using a motor vehicle without insurance. Criminal damage. Theft. Failing to remain where accident occurred causing

				damage. Failing to report-damage only accident. Driving without due care and attention.
Aug-11	Belfast	Car stopped at traffic lights was driven into by second car. Driver reportedly on mobile phone at time.	3 slightly injured	None
Jan-12	Ballymena	Head on collision involving a van and a car. The van driver was alleged to be on his mobile phone at the time.	2 seriously injured. 1 slight	Driving without due care and attention.

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.