



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2012-01065

Keyword: Road Policing

Subject: Unlicensed and UnInsured Drivers

Request and Answer:

Question 1

Please could you supply me with the following data from the last three calendar years (2009, 2010, 2011)

The number of unlicensed drivers arrested by your force.

Answer

Searches were conducted however these searches failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

Roads Policing has advised that police do not have a power of arrest for unlicensed driving and consequently have no records of drivers arrested for this offence. Amongst the drivers who are arrested for offences such as Excess Alcohol or Dangerous Driving there will probably be unlicensed drivers, however because the unlicensed driving is not the principle offence we cannot ascertain the numbers involved.

Question 2

The number of those drivers who were also uninsured.

Answer

Searches were conducted however these searches failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

Roads Policing has advised that there is no power of arrest for driving whilst uninsured. A power to seize un-insured vehicles was introduced to Northern Ireland in May 2009 and the number of uninsured vehicles seized by police is as follows:

May 2009 until December 2009 (inclusive) 1617 vehicles seized

January 2010 until December 2010 (inclusive) 2427 vehicles seized

January 2011 until December 2011 (inclusive) 2322 vehicles seized

January 2012 until February 2012 (inclusive) 415 vehicles seized

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.