



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2013-04471

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Breakdown of Arrests of Individuals with Learning Disabilities

Request and Answer:

Question 1

F-2013-04044 refers. It states that in the last year 351 individuals with a learning disability were arrested or questioned in Northern Ireland. I would like to request a further spreadsheet breakdown. How many were arrests?

Question 2

How many were questioned?

Question 3

Where the arrest/questioning occurred (town, council area or police district) and if possible more specific details of location e.g. public place, care home, private home etc.

Question 4

A short description of what the arrest/questioning was in relation to e.g. theft, assault etc

Question 5

A column detailing the outcome of the questioning/arrest - was the person charged, fined, prison etc.

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 (18 hours).

In relation to Question 3, the location details of where questioning took place is stored within a pdf document held in the database and is not readily available. Retrieval of this information would require a manual trawl of 421 questioning records to identify the location of the interview. Estimating 10 minutes to examine each record, the total retrieval process would take approximately 70 hours. A manual trawl would also be required in relation to Question 5 in respect of questioning and again the retrieval process would take 70 hours. Retrieval of this information in addition to the remaining questions would therefore grossly exceed the 18 hour cost limit.

Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, if any part of the request exceeds the cost threshold then the whole request will exceed costs and there is no obligation to answer any part of the request.

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. Subject to any relevant exemptions, it may be possible to provide information in relation to arrests **only** in respect of Questions 3 and 5; and answer Questions 1, 2 and 4 within the cost limit.

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.

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.

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.