



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2014-02531

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Children Arrested/Charged Under 16 - Drugs

Request and Answer:

Question 1

How many children aged 16 or under have been arrested for possession of a Class C drug since 2012, 2013 and January 1, 2014 to May 14, 2014?

Question 2

Please state the drugs concerned?

Question 3

Please state the age of the youngest and the drug?

Question 4

How many of those children were charged?

Question 5

How many children aged 16 or under have been arrested for possession of a Class B drug since 2012, 2013 and January 1, 2014 to May 14, 2014?

Question 6

Please state the drugs concerned?

Question 7

Please state the age of the youngest and the drug?

Question 8

How many of those children were charged?

Question 9

How many children aged 16 or under have been arrested for possession of a Class A drug since 2012, 2013 and January 1, 2014 to May 14, 2014?

Question 10

Please state the drugs concerned?

Question 11

Please stage the age of the youngest and the drug?

Question 12

How many of those children were charged?

Answers 1- 12

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.

Please find the responses to your questions in the tables provided at the end of this response.

Please note the records were extracted in such a way as to fit the structure of the questions. In that respect, the custody number, year of arrest and offence type were used to identify distinct cases. The offences considered were exclusively those of possession of a controlled drug.

The list of drugs involved (Questions 2, 6, 10) was extracted from the property information on Niche. This is a direct link to the Occurrence Number and not the Custody Number, and as such, all the drugs listed will not necessarily be attributable to the arrested party, as more than one arrest may have been logged under one Occurrence Number, and all property seized and logged under that incident. Specifying the exact drugs that were seized from the arrested parties listed in the tables would require the manual sifting of over 200 records, and would consequently come over the FOI cost of 18 hours.

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.

Number of Persons Aged 16 or Under Arrested for Possession of a Controlled Drug in 2012, 2013 and 2014^{1,2,3}

| | Number of Persons Arrested for Possession of a Class A Controlled Drug | Number of Persons Arrested for Possession of a Class B Controlled Drug | Number of Persons Arrested for Possession of a Class C Controlled Drug |
|---|--|--|--|
| 1 st January 2012 – 31 st December 2012 | 12 | 50 | 16 |
| 1 st January 2013 – 31 st December 2013 | 13 | 59 | 11 |
| 1 st January 2014 – 14 th May 2014 [*] | 8 | 26 | 7 |

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch

¹Please note: This information is based on data extracted from a live system and may be subject to change. It is dependent on the information having been input into the system in such a way as to identify those records that are relevant.

²Data from 1st April 2014 to 14th May 2014 is provisional and subject to change.

³The figures in each year and classification category will not add up as one individual may have been arrested at different ages in different years and for possession of substances from different classes.

^{*}Note: one arrest of a person aged 16 or under was made in 2014 for 'Possession of a Controlled Drug' without any specific details regarding the substance classification. It does not appear in this table.

Number of Persons Charged after Being Arrested for Possession of a Controlled Drug in 2012, 2013 and 2014^{1,2,3} **Aged 16 or Under at Time of Arrest**

| | Number of Persons Arrested for Possession of a Class A Controlled Drug | Number of Persons Arrested for Possession of a Class B Controlled Drug | Number of Persons Arrested for Possession of a Class C Controlled Drug |
|---|--|--|--|
| 1 st January 2012 – 31 st December 2012 | 3 | 21 | 5 |
| 1 st January 2013 – 31 st December 2013 | 2 | 18 | 3 |
| 1 st January 2014 – 14 th May 2014 | 1 | 8 | 3 |

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch

¹Please note: This information is based on data extracted from a live system and may be subject to change. It is dependent on the information having been input into the system in such a way as to identify those records that are relevant. In particular, ongoing investigations and prosecutions may lead to further charges being delivered in the future.

²Data from 1st April 2014 to 14th May 2014 is provisional and subject to change.

³The figures in each year and classification category will not add up as one individual may have been arrested at different ages in different years and for possession of substances from different classes.

Age of the Youngest Person Arrested for Possession of a Controlled Drug in 2012, 2013 and 2014^{1,2,3}

| | Class A | | Class B | | Class C | |
|---|---------|---------------------------|---------|---------------|---------|-------------------------|
| | Age | Drug Involved | Age | Drug Involved | Age | Drug Involved |
| 1 st January 2012 – 31 st December 2012 | 13 | Suspected Class A Tablets | 13 | Cannabis | 13 | Diazepam |
| 1 st January 2013 – 31 st December 2013 | 13 | Cocaine | 13 | Cannabis | 13 | Diazepam |
| 1 st January 2014 – 14 th May 2014 | 13 | Cocaine | 13 | Cannabis | 15 | Pregabalin [*] |

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch

¹Please note: This information is based on data extracted from a live system and may be subject to change. It is dependent on the information having been input into the system in such a way as to identify those records that are relevant.

²Data from 1st April 2014 to 14th May 2014 is provisional and subject to change.

³The figures in each year and classification category will not add up as one individual may have been arrested at different ages in different years and for possession of substances from different classes.

*Pregabalin is a Prescription Only Medicine and as such does not fall within a specification class. The arrest at the time was carried out on suspicion of 'Possession of a Class C Controlled Drug'.

List of Drugs Involved in Incidents Resulting in Persons Aged 16 or Under Being Arrested for Possession of a Controlled Drug in 2012, 2013 and 2014^{1,2,3,4}

| Year of Arrest | Class | Drug |
|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2014 | A | Cocaine |
| | | Ecstasy |
| | | Other-Class A |
| | B | Cannabis |
| | C | Benzodiazepines |
| | | Other-Class C |
| | - | Other Drugs |
| | - | Other Prescription Drugs |
| 2013 | A | Cocaine |
| | | Ecstasy |
| | | Other-Class A |
| | B | Amphetamine |
| | | Cannabis |
| | | Other-Class B |
| | C | Benzodiazepines |
| | | Other-Class C |
| - | Other Drugs | |
| - | Other Prescription Drugs | |
| 2012 | A | Cocaine |
| | | Ecstasy |
| | | Methadone |
| | | Other-Class A |
| | B | Amphetamine |
| | | Cannabis |
| | | Other-Class B |
| | C | Benzodiazepines |
| Other-Class C | | |
| - | Other Drugs | |
| - | Other Prescription Drugs | |

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch

¹Please note: This information is based on data extracted from a live system and may be subject to change. It is dependent on the information having been input into the system in such a way as to identify those records that are relevant.

²Data from 1st April 2014 to 14th May 2014 is provisional and subject to change.

³The figures in each year and classification category will not add up as one individual may have been arrested at different ages in different years and for possession of substances from different classes.

⁴Note that the drugs listed in this table are extracted from the property seized during the incident involving the arrested party at the time. It may not necessarily relate to the drugs that were effectively seized from the arrested party as more than one person of various ages may have been involved and /or arrested during one specific incident.