



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2015-03626

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Charges for Breaching Smoking Ban 2007 - 2015

Request and Answer:

Question

Under the Freedom of Information Act I would like to know how many people have been charged for breaching the 2007 smoking ban whilst at pubs and bars in each individual calendar year from 2007-2015, including 2015 year to date.

Answer

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Act I can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does hold information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Searches conducted on the PSNI crime recording system found no information on any person being charged for a breach of the smoke free regulations whilst at either a 'pub' or 'club' at any time from 2007 to date.

Note: Whilst breaching the smoke free regulations is a criminal offence, it is local councils who are responsible for the enforcement of the smoke free regulations in Northern Ireland and not the PSNI. Please find a link below which can provide additional information on the smoke free regulations of Northern Ireland.

<http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/smoking-regulations-in-northern-ireland>

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.psnipolice.uk

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