



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2015-03484

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Drug Related Offences at Licensed Betting Offices

Request and Answer:

Question

I write in accordance with my rights under Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and make the following Freedom of Information request.

I specifically require information of any type which details how many drug-related offences there have been in the licensed betting offices in your area including, but not limited to, illegal drug seizures, supply of illegal drugs and consumption of illegal drugs.

I would prefer to receive this information electronically, preferably not as a PDF. If the decision is made to withhold some of this data using exemptions under the Data Protection Act, please inform me of that fact and cite the exemptions used.

If some documents which form part of this request are easier to obtain than others, then I respectfully request that you release the available information, as soon as possible.

Clarification Request: The record keeper has informed us that they are able to provide information on the number of drug seizure incidents and the number of crimes of drug trafficking/drug possession where the location MO has been input as 'betting shop' or as 'gaming/gambling place'. Can you please confirm if you wish for both of these locations types to be included in the data search?

In addition, can you please provide a clarification on what time period you would like your FOI request to cover?

Clarification Response: Just 'betting shop' please and for the 2014 calendar year. Thanks.

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 were conducted on the PSNI crime recording system for any incidents, in the 2014 calendar year, where the offence classification was recorded as 'Drug Offences' and where the incident location was classified as either 'Betting Shop' or 'Gaming / Gambling Place'. An additional

search was also conducted for any incidents which resulted in the seizure of a controlled substance and where the location was either 'Betting Shop' or 'Gaming / Gambling Place'. These searches conducted on the PSNI crime recording system located no incidents of drug-related offences or drug seizures which occurred in locations classified as 'Betting Shop' or 'Gaming / Gambling Place' in the 2014 calendar year.

Note: This information is based on data extracted from a live system and is dependent on the information having been input into the system in such a way as to identify those records that are relevant. Drug offences are defined and classified as per the Home Office Counting Rules and include both possession and trafficking offences.

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.