

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2016-00863

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Children Detained Under Mental Health Act

Request and Answer:

Question

The number of children (under 18) detained under s136 of the Mental Health Act and held in a police cell in 2015-2016

The number of children (under 18) detained under s136 of the Mental Health Act between 1st January 2015 and March 2016.

Please provide detail of where each child was held (for example, a police cell/A&E) and how long they were held. In these cases, how many times did the police record the use of force on the young person?

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.

Between the 1st January 2015 and March 2016 there were 3 children (under 18 year olds), all aged 17, detained in Police custody under Article 130 of the Mental Health (NI) Order 1986. One was detained for 10 hours 12 minutes, one for 14 hours and 44 minutes and one for 54 minutes. All three of these young people were restrained, however there was no reportable force used in their detention.

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.