



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2016-01322

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Under 18s in Custody

Request and Answer:

Question 1

Using FOI please will you be able to tell me the following broken down by the last 3 financial years, the number of stop and search on children – with ages?

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 (PSNI) does hold information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Please see table below showing the number of persons under 18 years of age who were stopped and searched, or stopped and questioned, by the PSNI during the last 3 financial years ⁽¹⁾.

Age ⁽²⁾	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
1	0	2	0
2	1	1	0
3	1	0	1
4	0	1	1
5	0	0	0
6	0	0	2
7	0	0	1
8	1	2	2
9	0	2	2
10	5	5	5
11	15	6	18
12	59	38	54
13	205	147	216
14	514	432	520
15	1,152	738	907
16	1,788	1,253	1,331
17	1,741	1,703	1,799
Total	5,482	4,330	4,859

(1) Persons may not necessarily have been stopped & searched/questioned but may have been in the presence of a stop and search.

(2) Age may be officer-perceived age.

Question 2

The number of children having DNA swabs taken by the police – broken down by age?

Answer

Please see table below showing the number of persons under 18 years of age who had DNA taken by police in 2014/15 and 2015/16. This information is not held for 2013/2014.

Age	2014/15	2015/16
11	5	0
12	10	1
13	28	1
14	45	4
15	80	5
16	131	6
17	261	5
Total	560	22

Question 3

The number of children held in police cells – ages and how long for?

Answer

Please see table below showing the number of persons under 18 years of age who were detained in Police Custody during 2014/15 and 2015/16. This has been broken down to show the average time spent in Custody. This information is not held for 2013/2014.

Age	2014/15	Average Time in Custody	2015/16	Average Time in Custody
10	1	1:27	2	1:29
11	10	2:28	11	3:34
12	30	2:08	27	4:32
13	111	2:04	114	7:20
14	249	2:34	299	5:06
15	478	4:40	438	3:36
16	716	4:24	622	5:30
17	930	4:43	792	5:58
Total	2,525		2,305	

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.