



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2017-01096

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Arrests For 5 Years In Strabane

Request and Answer:

Question 1

Can you tell me how many people were arrested in connection with dissident republican activities in Strabane in the past five years?

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.

Records from the 1st April 2012 to the 28th April 2017 have been checked and reviewed by the PSNI Serious Crime branch and the PSNI Statistics Branch confirms that 47 individuals were arrested in Strabane in the requested time period in relation to Terrorism Act arrests.

Please note that the figures provided only refer to the Terrorism Investigation Unit (TIU). It is possible that other crime departments and other police districts would also have conducted such arrests. However to determine if each arrest is relevant to this FOI request it would require trawling through all such investigations over the last five years to ascertain if there were additional arrests in connection with dissident republican activities in Strabane in the past five years which would take more than 18 hours to complete.

Question 2

Of those, how many were charged following their arrest?

Answer

Of those individuals arrested, 3 were charged and 14 were reported.

Question 3

And how many were released unconditionally?

Answer

Of those individuals arrested, 30 were released unconditionally.

Please Note: People arrested under The Terrorism Act must either be charged or released unconditionally – bail is not permitted under this legislation. Interviews under arrest are a key part of

all investigative strategies and the police service is committed to following all lines of enquiry to keep our communities safe from those who would seek to cause serious harm.

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.