



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2017-01606

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Arrests Related to Buckfast

Request and Answer:

Question

I wish to request access to the following records/details:

- The number of arrest reports where the alcoholic drink Buckfast was mentioned in any way.
- This figure to be given for the years 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and the period from 1 January 2017 up to 31 May 2017.
- The total number of arrest reports for the years 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and the period from 1 January 2017 up to 31 May 2017.

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.

Please find tables included below which display the requested information on the number of arrests where the term 'Buckfast' was mentioned in the circumstances of the arrest and the total number of arrests of the dates requested.

Table 1. Number of arrests¹ where 'Buckfast' was mentioned in the Circumstances of Arrest

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	1 Jan - 31 May 2017
Number	41	28	42	25	56	18

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch

Table 2. Total Number of arrests¹

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	1 Jan - 31 May 2017
Number	31,409	28,105	27,406	26,843	25,438	9,984

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch

¹ Persons arrested and processed through police custody. Therefore, those arrested and street bailed or dealt with by other means e.g. discretionary disposal etc. will not be included in the figures.

Please note: This information is based on data extracted from a live system and may be subject to change. It is dependent on the information having been input into the system in such a way as to identify those records that are relevant.

Please note that figures within the current financial year (i.e. from 1st April 2017) are provisional and will be subject to change.

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.