



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2017-00811

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Cannabis Crime in 2016

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

The UKCSC is currently contacting Police Forces across the UK to ask for the following statistics for each Jurisdiction:-

The cost of policing cannabis crime for 2016

#### 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.

The PSNI Crime branch has confirmed that the PSNI do not record data which would enable a figure to be projected. The nature and scale of police investigations vary across Northern Ireland. The cost of policing cannabis is not quantifiable locally as PSNI do not have any mechanisms to monitor costs in such cases nor can such information be retrieved retrospectively. We are unable to provide a figure.

#### Question 2

The number of people prosecuted in 2016 for growing cannabis for

- a) personal use
- b) commercial use

#### Answer

61 individuals have been prosecuted for Cultivating Cannabis in 2016. Please be aware that this offence code does not identify if the cannabis cultivation was for personal or commercial use.

Please note that this relates to the number of individuals arrested and processed through custody for the offence of Cultivating Cannabis who were then prosecuted. This may not represent a complete picture as it is possible for a person to be reported to PPS and prosecuted without having first been arrested or arrested for this specific offence.

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](mailto: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](http://www.psni.police.uk)

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.