



# FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2017-01174

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Possession/Supply of Controlled Drugs Involving Young Persons

**Request and Answer:**

**Question 1**

How many arrests have your police force made for the offences of supplying controlled drugs or possession with intent to supply controlled drugs in the last year (2016 calendar year) for young persons aged sixteen or under?

**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.

There were a total of 14 arrests for ‘Supplying a controlled drug’ or ‘Possessing of a controlled drug with intent to supply’ from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 where the arrested party was aged 16 or under at the time of arrest.

**Question 2**

Please provide if possible the figures for each age group i.e. ten, eleven, twelve etc and also broken down by gender for each of the two offences, breaking the alleged offences down by Class A and Class B drugs.

**Answer**

Of those 14 arrests, 12 arrests were made for offences that included: ‘Supplying class A controlled drug’, ‘Supplying class B controlled drug’, ‘Possessing class A controlled drug with intent to supply’ and/or ‘Possessing class B controlled drug with intent to supply’ (the remaining two arrests related to class C controlled drugs offences). All arrested parties were male individuals, and the breakdown by age at the time of arrest is presented in the table below.

Age at time of Arrest	Arrests for ‘Supplying class A controlled drug’ and/or ‘Possessing class A controlled drug with intent to supply’	Arrests for ‘Supplying class B controlled drug’ and/or ‘Possessing class B controlled drug with intent to supply’
13 and under	0	0
14	0	1

15	3 <sup>a</sup>	2 <sup>a</sup>
16	5 <sup>b</sup>	3 <sup>b</sup>

**Source: PSNI Statistics Branch**

<sup>a</sup> One arrest of a 15 year old was for both 'Possessing class A controlled drug with intent to supply' and 'Possessing class B controlled drug with intent to supply' offences

<sup>b</sup> One arrest of a 16 year old was for both 'Possessing class A controlled drug with intent to supply' and 'Possessing class B controlled drug with intent to supply' offences

**Notes:** 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.

The data was extracted from the total number of arrests for drug-related offences and filtered by age at time of arrest. Note that a drug-related arrest is counted when a person is arrested and processed through custody for one or more drug-related offences. This is a count of custody records and not persons; a person may have been arrested on more than one occasion during the time periods presented below.

Similarly, if one person has been arrested on the same occasion for Possession and/or Supply offences of different classes of controlled drugs, they will be counted once in the overall count, but be included in each of the categories itemised; footnotes at this effect are included.

### Question 3

For those children who were arrested AND were aged 13 or under please provide specific details on the charge they were arrested on and the exact type and class of drug they were alleged to have been involved with.

### Answer

As shown in the table above, there were no arrests of any persons aged 13 or under.

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.