



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2017-01805

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Stop and Searches

Request and Answer:

Question

Since the enactment of both The Terrorism Act 2000 and Justice & Security (NI) Act 2007 the police in the North of Ireland have been afforded the right to stop, detain, search and question individuals which has been deemed compatible with ECHR law.

As part of research I am currently conducting I wish through the medium of the Freedom Information Act 2000 to obtain the following information from the Police Service. I therefore request to invoke my General Right of Access to public information which is currently not available in the public domain:

How many Stop and Searches have been carried out by the Police re aforementioned Acts quoted above in the Police district of Derry and Strabane from the following dates - 1st September 2016 to 31st December 2016 and 1st January 2017 to 31st March 2017?

Answer

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) I can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) does hold information to which your request relates.

Between 1st September 2016 and 31st December 2016 the PSNI stopped and searched, or stopped and questioned, 761 people in Derry City and Strabane policing district under the Terrorism Act 2000 and/or the Justice and Security Act 2007.

Between 1st January 2017 and 31st March 2017 the PSNI stopped and searched, or stopped and questioned, 553 people in Derry City and Strabane policing district under the Terrorism Act 2000 and/or the Justice and Security Act 2007.

Please note these statistics relate to persons stopped and searched under the Terrorism Act 2000 sections 43 and 43A and the Justice and Security Act section 24, as well as persons stopped and questioned under the Justice and Security Act section 21. Persons may have been stopped under one legislation or multiple legislations.

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.