



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2016-00819

**Keyword:** Operational Policing

**Subject:** Missing Persons from 2011

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act.

How many people have been reported as missing to the PSNI since 1 Jan 2011 to present day? (Or as close to present day as possible).

**Request for Clarification:** In relation to your recent FOI request regarding 'Missing Persons' from 2011 onwards, the record keeper has now carried out their searches and have informed us that the requested information on missing persons was not recorded on the PSNI systems prior to the year 2013.

Bearing this in mind, they have asked if you would be content to instead receive the requested information for the years 2013 to 2016.

**Clarification Response:** That would be fine, thanks.

#### 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.

Since 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2013 to 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2016, there were a total of 38,005 occurrences where a person was reported missing to the PSNI. Please be aware that this number represents the total number of incidents and not the total number of persons reported missing, it is possible that the same person may be reported as missing on a number of occasions.

**Note:** This information has been extracted from a live computer system and may be subject to change, it is dependent on the information being correctly recorded in a format which enables it to be identified and retrieved from the PSNI recording systems.

#### Question 2

How many of those same people have been found?

#### Answer

Of the 38,005 occurrences were a person was reported missing to the PSNI, 37,963 of these resulted in a 'Person Found' outcome.

### Question 3

How many people that were found were alive?

### Answer

Of the 38,005 occurrences were a person was reported missing to the PSNI, 37,887 of the occurrences identify that the person was found alive.

### Question 4

How many people that were found were dead?

### Answer

A total of 76 of these occurrences resulted in a body being found.

### Question 5

If possible, could I get a breakdown of the areas where these people were reported missing?

### Answer

Please find a table included below which displays the requested information on those occurrences were a person was reported missing, broken down by police districts.

PSNI District	Occurrence Count
Belfast City	10,929
Lisburn and Castlereagh	2,859
Ards and North Down	3,698
Newry, Mourne and Down	2,398
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	3,213
Mid Ulster	1,006
Fermanagh and Omagh	1,664
Derry City and Strabane	4,092
Causeway Coast and Glens	1,932
Mid and East Antrim	1,584
Antrim and Newtownabbey	2,158
Other	2,470

**Note:** This information has been extracted from a live computer system and may be subject to change, it is dependent on the information being correctly recorded in a format which enables it to be identified and retrieved from the PSNI recording systems.

### Question 6

If possible, could I get a year by year breakdown of both people reported missing and people recorded as found?

### Answer

Please find a table included below which displays the requested year by year breakdown of both people reported missing and people recorded as found.

Year	Occurrence Count - Found	Occurrence Count – Not Found
2013	8429	5
2014	10781	7
2015	11638	16
2016	7115	12

**Note:** This information has been extracted from a live computer system and may be subject to change, it is dependent on the information being correctly recorded in a format which enables it to be identified and retrieved from the PSNI recording systems.

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.