



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-01944

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: Seized Drugs

Request and 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 and this is being provided to you. We further consider the information you seek in request number 1 is exempt by virtue of section 21 of FOIA and have detailed our rationale as to why this exemption applies. We have also provided you with links to guidance issued by the Information Commissioner's Office which we have followed in responding to your request.

Request 1

I'm making a request for information held on illegal drugs seized and held in police stations as evidence by PSNI

From 01/01/2016 to 01/01/ 2018 how much in weight of illegal drugs were reported, seized and removed from Belfast and Lisburn District areas? Please state numbers for each substance please

Answer

Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states that fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

The following exemption has been applied:

Section 21 - Information Reasonably Accessible by Other Means

Statistics Branch publishes statistics on the quantities of drugs seized and on the number of seizure incidents on a financial year basis. These statistics can be found using the link below.

<https://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/drug-seizure-statistics/>

The full text of exemptions can be found at www.legislation.gov.uk and further guidance on how they operate can be located on the Information Commissioners Office website www.ico.org.uk.

Please find below the answers to your other requests below.

Request 2

From 01/01/2016 to 01/01/ 2018 in weight, has any seized illegal drugs been reported lost or stolen when held securely in Belfast or Lisburn Districts by the PSNI as evidence? Please state each not as a whole.

Answer

Professional Standards and Discipline have advised there have been no seized illegal drugs reported lost or stolen as a misconduct matter to them from Belfast or Lisburn districts during the period 01/01/2016 to 01/01/2018.

Request 3

From 01/01/2016 to 01/01/ 2018 how many officers/constables have been charged investigated or disciplined as a result of theft of illegal drug evidence or as a result of losing said evidence? Please state each not as a whole.

Answer

There have been no officers charged, investigated or disciplined over the theft or loss of illegal drug evidence during the period 01/01/2016 to 01/01/2018

Request 4

From 01/01/2016 to 01/01/ 2018 has any officers/constables of the Belfast or Lisburn Districts been disciplined for being caught using illegal drugs personally? If so how many officers? Please state how many officers for illegal each substance.

Answer

There have been no officers from Belfast or Lisburn districts disciplined over the use of illegal drugs during the period 01/01/2016 to 01/01/2018

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.psnipolice.uk

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