



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2018-02791

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Arrests and Charges 2015 -2018

### 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. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following data from your force covering the past three calendar years and available data for this year: 2017, 2016, and 2015 and the year-to-date for 2018.

Please see below clarification regarding the FOI sent on 15<sup>th</sup> November about arrests and charges relating to the theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle.

Just to be completely clear: for questions 1) and 2) when I am asking for data relating to the number of children arrested and charged I am looking only for those aged UNDER-18.

Please do not include 18 year olds in this data set as they are adults. Please put 18 year olds in the adults data set for questions 3) and 4)

### Request 1

I would like to know how many children (18 and under) in the time period have been arrested on suspicion of theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle.

The offence, contrary to section 12 of the Theft Act 1968, is recorded under Home Office classification code 48.

Please provide the ages of those arrested: for example X number of 10-year-olds, X number of 11-year-olds, and so on to include all those aged 18 and under.

### Answer

Please see below the table the number of persons under the age of 18 **arrested** for a theft of motor vehicle offence.

Age at time of arrest	2015	2016	2017	2018
13	1	4	1	
14	11	7	1	1
15	19	14	7	7
16	14	15	23	12
17	27	24	20	20

### Request 2

Please provide the total number of those aged 18 and under who were charged with the offence in the same time period.

### Answer

Please find in the table below the number of persons under the age of 18 **charged** for a theft of motor vehicle offence.

Age at time of charge	2015	2016	2017	2018
13		1		
14	2	2		
15	8	2	4	2
16	4	5	7	2
17	11	7	8	7

### Request 3

Please provide the total number of adults (18 and over) arrested on suspicion of the offence in the same time period.

### Answer

Please find in the table the total number of persons aged 18 and above **arrested** for a theft of motor vehicle offence.

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of persons	542	460	445	462

### Request 4

Please provide the total number of adults charged with the offence in the same time period.

### Answer

Please find in the table the total number of persons aged 18 and above **charged** for a theft of motor vehicle offence.

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of persons	262	200	219	226

Please note the following which should be used in conjunction with the data provided above:

- The information has been extracted from the NICHE custody data extracts where an individual was arrested and processed through police custody for a theft of motor vehicle offence including the following offences: theft of vehicle, taking a motor vehicle without authority and taking conveyance without authority (including attempts) from 1 January 2015 – 31 December 2018.
- The age is based on the age of the arrested person at time of arrest.

- The information provided for the number of people charged is based on the date of charge where an individual was arrested and processed through police custody and subsequently charged for one of the offences noted above, the age is based on the age at time of charge.
- The information provided is a count of individuals arrested or charged per year.

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.

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.