



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2018-02296

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Arrests For Drug Use Aged 14 -28

### 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.

### Request

The number of arrests for drug use, with the age of offender specified (I only require information for those aged between 14 and 28), and type of drug specified.

I require data for the following time frames:

- i) 2008 - 2009
- ii) 2009 - 2010
- iii) 2010 - 2011
- iv) 2011 - 2012
- v) 2012 - 2013
- vi) 2013 - 2014
- vii) 2014 - 2015
- viii) 2015 - 2016
- viii) 2016 - 2017
- x) 2017 - 2018

### Answer

Please find the information requested in the separate spreadsheet.

Please note that table provided in the spreadsheet is based on an extract from the custody data held on the police administrative system and includes those persons arrested and processed through police custody. Therefore those arrested and street bailed, or dealt with by other means e.g. community resolution etc. will not be included in the figures.

A person may be arrested and processed through custody on more than one occasion in a single financial year or across financial years. They may also be arrested on a single occasion for more than one offence, for example a range of drug offences involving class A, B or C. All drug offences have been included in the table - possession, possession with intent to supply, importing etc.

The figures provided are based on the principle drug offence each person has been arrested for in each custody record, for example a person arrested for a Class A offence and a Class B offence will be shown under Class A in the table; a person arrested for a Class B and a Class C offence will be shown under Class B only. Where the drug arrest offence did not specify A, B or C this has been included under Unknown. The count is for each custody record and is not a count of persons arrested.

Cannabis was reclassified from a Class C to a Class B controlled drug on 26th Jan 2009 and this should be considered when looking at figures provided for 2008/09 and 2009/10. Please note that where the offence code specifies 'Cannabis' it has been counted within Class B for each year provided.

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.