



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2018-00436

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Arrests in the Ormeau ward of Belfast

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

#### Request

Could the PSNI, provide me in tabular form, with the number of annual arrests for public order/civil disorder/drunken disorder/major crimes offences that have been carried out within the Holyland. The Holyland geographic boundaries

For the sake of clarity, the Holyland can be considered as the area bounded by the Botanic Gardens (park), the QUB university campus, the Stranmillis Embankment, the Ormeau Road, College Park, College Gardens and University Street. It would also be acceptable for your organisation to provide data already compiled that deviates slightly from the geographic boundaries listed.

#### Clarification sought:

Initial searches have been made in relation to your request and identified that PSNI Statistics Branch do not hold arrest data in the format requested. Subject to any relevant exemptions Statistics Branch can provide from the NICHE custody data extracts (where a person is arrested and processed through police custody) all arrests for the Ormeau ward (which will be a greater geographical area than requested) in Belfast Policing District. Ward is the lowest geographical unit held in the arrests data.

However, ward information is incomplete. For 2017 data, 9% of custody records in Belfast district do not have ward information completed and 12 % of records in the Lisburn Road LPT (location of Ormeau Ward) do not contain any ward information.

#### Clarification received:

Any relevant statistical information on anti-social behaviour related to the Holyland/Ormeau roads/UofU/QUB students would be welcome.

#### Answer

The following information has been extracted from the custody data extracts from NICHE where an individual was arrested and processed through police custody. Therefore, those arrested and street bailed or dealt with by other means e.g. community resolution, PND (Penalty Notice for Disorder) etc

will not be included in the figures. The information extracted is based on the arrest location within the 'Ormeau' ward in Belfast and covers the time period of 1 January 2017 - 31 December 2017. As noted in the clarification, ward information is incomplete. For 2017 data, 9% of custody records in Belfast district do not have ward information completed and 12 % of records in the Lisburn Road LPT (location of Ormeau Ward) do not contain any ward information.

There were 95 arrests in the Ormeau ward of Belfast in 2017.

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.psnipolice.uk](http://www.psnipolice.uk)

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