



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-01294

Keyword: Crime

Subject: False Document Prosecutions

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 1

The number of people you have charged with the following offences over the past five years:

- o Part 1 of the Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 (forgery and connected offences)
- o Section 24A of the Immigration Act 1971 (deception)
- o Section 26 (1) (d) of the Immigration 1971 Act (falsification of documents)
- o Section 25(1) and (5) of the Identity Cards Act 2006 with effect from January 2011

Update from requestor: Further to my previous email, please note that when I asked for data relating to Section 25(1) and (5) of the Identity Cards Act 2006, I believe I should have said Sections 4 (1) and 6 (1) of the Identity Documents Act 2010 which I believe applied from January 2011.

Request 2

The number of people charged with the offences named above over the past five years which then had the charges withdrawn due to them relying on either Article 31 of the United Nations Convention 1951 or Section 31 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 defences. (If you are unable to say the reason why the charge was withdrawn, the number of cases where charges were withdrawn will suffice – although this might be answered in response to question 1.)

Please provide this in Microsoft Excel format under the following headings (although please provide any other additional information that is available): Date; name of offence; summary description of offence; location of arrest; any details about defendant (such as, but not limited to, gender, age and nationality) and outcome.

Answer

Please find response to request 1 contained in the attached spread sheet named 'Request 1 Spread Sheet Response'. In relation to request 2 please also find an attached spread sheet named 'Request 2 Spread Sheet Response'.

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.psni.police.uk

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