



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-01291

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Legal Highs and Psychoactive Substances

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 arrests in relation to Legal Highs or New Psychoactive Substances:

- i) 2016/17 (Full Year)
- ii) 2017/ 2018 (Full Year)

Please split the number of arrests between: supplying, production to supply, possession with intent to supply, Importation and possession in a custodial institution.

Request 2

The number of charges in relation Legal Highs or New Psychoactive Substances:

- i) 2016/17 (Full Year)
- ii) 2017/18 (Full Year)

Please split the number of charges between: supplying, production to supply, possession with intent to supply, Importation and possession in a custodial institution.

Answers

Please find below as requested the figures for the 'Arrests and charges 2016/17 and 2017/18' for offences under the 'Psychoactive Substances Act 2016', which came effective on 26th May 2018.

The data was extracted on 15th August 2018

	Arrests		Charges	
	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18
Supplying a psychoactive substance, Possession of a psychoactive substance with intent to supply, Offering to supply a psychoactive substance	10	10	4	5
Importing a psychoactive substance, Possession of a psychoactive substance in a custodial institution	1	1	1	0

Please note that the figures have been extracted from the custody data on the NICHE database. The search was completed based on a search of the text 'psychoactive' in the offence description for custody arrests:

Offence codes SB4801097 'supplying a psychoactive substance', SB4801098 'offering to supply a psychoactive substance', SB4801099 'possession of a psychoactive substance with intent to supply', SB4801100 'importing a psychoactive substance' and SB4801102 'possession of a psychoactive substance in a custodial institution'.

Data extracted from the custody data held on police administrative system includes those 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.

Please note that where an individual has been arrested on the same occasion for an offence relating to supply etc. and also an offence relating to importing etc., this will be counted in both categories. If an individual has been arrested on the same occasion for more than one offence within the same category, this will be counted once.

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.

