



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2018-01397

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Perverting the Course of Justice Arrests

### 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 1

How many people have the PSNI arrested for perverting the course of justice since 1 January 2000.

#### Answer

For the period 1 January 2006 – 2 September 2018, Statistics Branch has confirmed there were 1,096 people arrested and processed through police custody for this offence.

*The data has been extracted from the custody data extracts from the NICHE database where a person was arrested and processed through police custody for the offence of perverting the course of justice from the 1 January 2006 (the date custody data extracts are recorded) – 2 September 2018. Those arrested and street bailed or dealt with by other means e.g. community resolution, PND etc will not be included in the figures. The information provided is a count of individuals over the time period provided.*

#### Request 2

Does the PSNI record each report of a sexual assault or rape as a crime automatically no matter the outcome of any investigation.

#### Answer

PSNI follow the Home Office Counting Rules for Crime recording. Please see link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counting-rules-for-recorded-crime>

The Home Office Counting Rules mean that if there is any suggestion that a sexual assault or rape has occurred then it will be crimed no matter how slight the evidence.

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.