



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-00807

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Stop & Search Statistics

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 stop and searches conducted by the PSNI in 2018.

Answer

7249*

** 2018 Data covers the period 1st January 2018 to 31st March 2018*

Request 2

The total number of stop and searches conducted by the PSNI in 2016 and 2017.

Answer

A total of 64,208, broken down as follows –

33,221 in 2016
30,987 in 2017

Request 3

How many of the stop and searches carried out in 2016, 2017 and 2018 led to further action i.e. an arrest or charge?

Answer

The total which resulted in an outcome* was 11,027, broken down as follows –

4849 in 2016**
4957 in 2017
1221 in 2018

** An outcome could be an arrest, a community resolution, a report to the PPS or a Penalty Notice for Disorder.*

*** Due to a technical problem that occurred with the stop and search data recording device, there are 724 stop and search encounters that occurred between 1 May 2016 and 29 November 2016 in which the outcome of the stop and search has not been recorded on the database. This means that the number of outcomes for 2016 may be underreported by approximately 2.5%.*

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.