



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-02771

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Arrests of Airline Pilots for exceeding the Blood-Alcohol Limit

Request and Answer:

Request 1

I am seeking information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to the number of pilots at Northern Ireland's biggest airports who have been arrested for exceeding the blood-alcohol limit. To that end, could you tell me:

How many pilots (including captains, first officers and other ranks) have been arrested at Belfast International and Belfast City airports on suspicion of being over the blood-alcohol limit for a pilot? Please provide this information broken down for each of the past five years (2013 to 2017 inclusive). Note: If the data is only available by financial year then please provide this instead (2013/14 to 2017/18 inclusive).

Request 2

For each year, please indicate how many arrests led to court proceedings and, if possible, the outcome of each case. Please note: I think the specific charge that any offence would be listed under would be one of "performing an aviation function when the level of alcohol exceeds the prescribed limit".

Clarification sought: "Do you require information on pilots who were preparing to fly an airplane? Or do you mean pilots who were driving to work?"

Clarification received: "Thank you I was looking for those who were about to perform an aviation function. So flying a plane".

Answer

Searches were conducted however these searches failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

PSNI Legacy and Justice Branch have advised that the offence would be under the 'Railway and Transport Safety Act 2003 (Section 93)'. PSNI Central Statistics Unit have advised that there are no offences in the PSNI computer system Niche charges offence table which contains the text, 'Railway and Transport Safety Act 2003 (Section 93)' i.e. no offence code under this legislation has been created in the offence code table which would imply that it has never been used. Therefore there is

no information held in relation to this request.

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.