



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2018-01707

**Keyword:** Organisational Information/Governance

**Subject:** Emergency/Panic Button Use

### 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

In what significant circumstances can an officer activate their emergency buttons?

#### Answer

Any officer may activate their emergency buttons if they have any kind of emergency and require assistance for themselves or others.

#### Request 2

The number of PSNI officers that used their “panic” / “emergency” orange buttons found on their radio in the year 2015, 2016, 2017 and in 2018 so far.

#### Answer

2015 - no statistics available due to a system upgrade.  
2016 - 3410  
2017 - 2388  
2018 - 2904 (up to 14.11.18)

#### Request 3

If possible for 2018 ONLY (or another year stated above if data is unavailable), can you please provide the reason for the use of the button and/or the general location of the officer (county), for each instance.

#### Answer

The PSNI's ICS branch only keep statistics on the number of activations, no data is held for the location. As alarm activations are actioned by a dispatcher as they occur it would not be possible to establish the reasons for each activation and location. An officer may activate an alarm while attending a call they are allocated, the activation does not register on the Command and Control log and there is no closing code for Police radio activations so it would make it almost impossible to get any working statistic for this request. Many activations are accidental and as such have no accompanying incident log.

This information has been provided by PSNI Urban Contact Management Centre.

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.