



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-00665

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: FOI Requests From 2014

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

I am interested in obtaining data pertaining to exemption types invoked by the police force in response to freedom of information (FOI) requests received from January 2014 to the date this FOI request is processed.

Total number of FOI requests received by the police force by year from January 2014 to the date this FOI request is processed.

Answer

Please find in the table below the number of requests received by the PSNI by year. Please note I have also included the number of subset requests contained within each main request.

Year	Number of FOI requests Received	Subset Requests
2014	1327	4726
2015	1305	4550
2016	1603	5265
2017	1622	5743
2018	640	1978

Request 2

Total number of FOI requests received by the police force which received a neither confirm nor deny response by year from January 2014 to the date this FOI request is processed.

Clarification Sought

The PSNI started using a new system for recording FOI requests in May 2016. To search for FOI request before this date would entail a manual search of all FOI requests contained within that system to establish which ones had a NCND response associated with them, as the old system does not have that type of search facility. This may make your request over cost. Would you be happy to receive the information you requested from May 2016 until now.

Clarification Received

Yes, could you please provide me with data from that point to the date this FOI is processed?

Answer

The current system for recording FOI requests was searched for any requests that contained neither confirm nor deny (NCND) in the Disposition Field. A total of 113 FOI's were found, 55 of these responses contained a Section 38(2) or Section 40(5) NCND only. Please note a number of responses contained NCND's using more than one section of the FOIA, for example one response could contain a Section 23(5), 24(2) and a section 30(3) NCND.

Request 3

Total number of FOI requests which received a neither confirm nor deny response by year from January 2014 to the date this FOI request is processed, by virtue of the following exemption: Section 23(5) Information relating to the Security bodies.

Answer

In the table below please find the number of responses citing Section 23(5) by year to date released by the PSNI.

Year	Number of Responses citing Section 23(5)
2016	11
2017	15
2018	0

Please note a number of responses contained NCNDs citing more than one section of the FOIA, for example one response could contain a Section 23(5), 24(2) and a section 30(3) NCND.

Request 4

Total number of FOI requests which received a neither confirm nor deny response by year from January 2014 to the date this FOI request is processed, by virtue of the following exemption: Section 24(2) National Security.

Answer

In the table below please find the number of responses citing Section 24(2) National Security by year to date released by the PSNI.

Year	Number of Responses citing Section 24(2)
2016	10
2017	18
2018	2

Please note a number of responses contained NCNDs citing more than one section of the FOIA, for example one response could contain a Section 23(5), 24(2) and a section 30(3) NCND.

Request 5

Total number of FOI requests which received a neither confirm nor deny response by year from January 2014 to the date this FOI request is processed, by virtue of the following exemption: Section 30(3) Investigations.

Please note a number of responses contained NCNDs citing more than one section of the FOIA, for example one response could contain a Section 23(5), 24(2) and a section 30(3) NCND.

Answer

In the table below please find the number of responses using Section 30(3) Investigations by year to date released by the PSNI.

Year	Number of Responses citing Section 30(3)
2016	10
2017	15
2018	4

Please note a number of responses contained NCNDs citing more than one section of the FOIA, for example one response could contain a Section 23(5), 24(2) and a section 30(3) NCND.

Request 6

Total number of FOI requests which received a neither confirm nor deny response by year from January 2014 to the date this FOI request is processed, by virtue of the following exemption: Section 31(3) Law enforcement.

Answer

In the table below please find the number of responses citing Section 31(3) Law enforcement by year to date released by the PSNI.

Year	Number of Responses citing Section 31(3)
2016	13
2017	23
2018	1

Please note a number of responses contained NCNDs citing more than one section of the FOIA, for example one response could contain a Section 23(5), 24(2) and a section 30(3) NCND.

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.psnipolice.uk

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.

