



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-02569

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Incidents For 5 Years Involving Butane Hash Oil

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.

A recent news article involving butane hash oil (BHO) – also known as “honey oil”, “dabs” or “shatter” which have led to service callouts.

Within this context, for each of the last five financial years (including 2018/19):

Request 1

How many callouts have been linked with BHO production?

Request 2

How many (a) fatalities and (b) injuries did these callouts/incidents result in?

Answers

To facilitate your request a manual trawl was carried out by PSNI Call Management Centre (CMC) on the computer system Command and Control (C&C) from 01 January 2015 to 13 December 2018 by trawling for all incidents logged, with the closing code ‘DRUG’ (the code used by PSNI CMC for all drug related incidents) and an attempt to capture within the call log by using a keyword search for the following keywords :

- ‘BHO’
- ‘Butane hash oil’,
- ‘Honey oil’
- ‘Dabs’
- ‘Shatter’

From the retrieval search mechanism as outlined above there were **no incidents** relevant to your request, therefore request 2 is not relevant.

However from this response it should also be further considered that as it has been provided and searched solely by undertaking a keyword search under the closing code ‘DRUG’ it is therefore

dependent on the information having been recorded within each of the C&C call logs which are manually input onto the system and therefore should allow for any human error. In addition there **may be** calls recorded on the C&C system that have not been captured for example any data that falls out of the 'keyword searches.

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.