



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-02467

Keyword: Road Policing

Subject: Driving Without Car Insurance in Northern Ireland

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

Over the past 5 years (2013-2018), how many people in Northern Ireland have been arrested for having no car insurance? Can you supply this information for each year?

Answer

Number of arrests by county in Northern Ireland, where an offence of no car insurance was detected (2013-2018)

| County of arrest | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | Total |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| ANTRIM | 470 | 466 | 480 | 505 | 472 | 354 | 2,747 |
| ARMAGH | 138 | 104 | 164 | 166 | 140 | 114 | 826 |
| BELFAST | 15 | 5 | 22 | 16 | 10 | 10 | 78 |
| DOWN | 267 | 263 | 215 | 284 | 246 | 197 | 1,472 |
| FERMANAGH | 106 | 81 | 83 | 102 | 81 | 53 | 506 |
| LONDONDERRY | 216 | 197 | 158 | 207 | 196 | 139 | 1,113 |
| TYRONE | 179 | 164 | 169 | 169 | 195 | 121 | 997 |
| Missing | 213 | 279 | 278 | 388 | 392 | 328 | 1,878 |
| Total | 1,604 | 1,559 | 1,569 | 1,837 | 1,732 | 1,316 | 9,617 |

Notes:

The majority of no insurance offences result in the issue of a Fixed Penalty Notice, an arrest will only be affected in conjunction with other more serious offences.

The figures are provisional and subject to change.

The figures are based on: 'Using a motor vehicle without insurance'.

County is based on the location of the arrest.

County is provided as entered onto the system and is not validated. **Please note:**

County details are not recorded in all cases.

Request 2

Out of all of these arrests, how many were actually prosecuted?

Answer

Number of persons prosecuted in relation to arrests where an offence of no car insurance was detected (2013-2018)

| Calendar Year | Number of persons prosecuted |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| 2013 | 1361 |
| 2014 | 1306 |
| 2015 | 1386 |
| 2016 | 1531 |
| 2017 | 1435 |
| 2018 | 965 |

Persons prosecuted' is derived from occurrences for which a Prosecutorial Decision to prosecute has been received from the PPS and recorded against the offence of 'Using a Motor Vehicle without Insurance' on the case file. Prosecution does not necessarily mean that a conviction was made. In addition, there is not necessarily a direct link between arrests and prosecutions i.e. people can be prosecuted without having been arrested and arrested without being prosecuted.

As you have asked specifically for the prosecutions arising from the arrests in Q1, then Q2 lists only prosecutions related to relevant arrests for the specified time period. There may be more prosecutions during the period 2013-2018 from occurrences recorded before 2013 as the processes leading to a prosecutorial decision may take several months. Similarly, the number of prosecutions for arrests made 2018 may continue to rise as these cases are processed by PPS.

Request 3

Which county in Northern Ireland has the highest arrests for people driving without car insurance?

Answer

PSNI cannot answer which county had the highest arrest for people driving without car insurance as this offence is usually dealt with by Fixed Penalty Notice therefore the arrest is more likely to have been effected in conjunction with other more serious offences. In addition the county is based on location of the arrest. County is provided as entered onto the system and is not validated. **Please note:** County details are not recorded in all cases.

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.