



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2018-02037

**Keyword:** Road Policing

**Subject:** Officers Using Mobile Phones Or Speeding

### 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 A) (i)

How many police officers have been caught using mobile phones while driving a service vehicle in each of the following years - 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 to date?

#### Request (ii)

Of those officers caught using a mobile phone while driving, how many were given a fine and penalty points and how many had the offence cancelled by a manager or senior officer?

#### Answers

A Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) does not require the recipient's occupation to be recorded or the vehicle VRM (Which is how we identify police vehicles in the case of speeding detections).

Service Policy does not require an Officer to declare to police management either a fixed penalty or traffic detection until they accrue more than 6 penalty points.

Therefore there is no information held that would allow PSNI to link a Police Officer with a detection for using a mobile phone.

#### Request B) (i)

How many police officers have been caught speeding by either a fixed or mobile safety/speed camera in each of the following years - 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 to date?

#### Answer

2015 24 detections all speed  
2016 32 detections all speed  
2017 13 detections all speed  
2018 6 detections all speed

Please note that cancellations are not considered to be 'caught speeding' and are therefore are not included within this statistics.

**Request (ii)**

Of those officers caught speeding, how many were doing so for operational reasons and how many were not responding to an incident at the time?

**Answer**

Please find below the figures for 'cancellations' by a District Commander / Head of Branch which are cancelled for operational reasons.

2015 240 cancellations

2016 153 cancellations

2017 156 cancellations

2018 160 cancellations

Please also refer to the data provided for Request B (i) .

**Request (iii)**

Of those not speeding in response to an incident, how many have received penalty points and a fine, how many participated in a speed awareness course and how many had a ticket cancelled by a manager or senior officer?

**Answer**

Figures for Speed Awareness and Conditional offers split as follows:

In 2015

11 Course

13 Fixed Penalty

In 2016

24 Course

7 Fixed Penalty

1 Court

In 2017

9 Course

2 Fixed Penalty

2 Court

In 2018

3 Course

2 Fixed Penalty

1 still ongoing

For 'cancelled' fixed penalty notices please refer to response above provided for request B (ii).

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.