



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-00855

Keyword: Road Policing

Subject: Mobile Phones Used Whilst Driving

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 some information to which your request relates and the decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Request 1

How many people were arrested by Police Service of Northern Ireland for being on their phone whilst driving in the 2017?

Answer

Enquiries made in relation to this request failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided. Roads Policing has confirmed the offence of driving whilst using a mobile phone is not arrestable, however there may be occasions where using a mobile phone was one of a number of offences put to the driver, but it would NOT have been the reason they were arrested. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

Request 2

How many people were charged by Police Service of Northern Ireland with death by dangerous driving in a case involving distraction by a phone in 2017?

Answer

None.

Request 3

How many people have been involved in a fatal accident as a result of a car crash involving a driver using their phone whilst driving in 2017?

Answer

Please see table below:

Contributory factor ¹	No. of fatal collisions	No. of people killed / injured
Using mobile phone	1	6

¹ Includes collisions where 'using a mobile phone' was either the principal causation factor or a contributory factor.

Request 4

Please can Police Service of Northern Ireland provide any relevant incident reports of people being arrested for using their phone whilst driving?

Answer

Enquiries made in relation to this request failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided. Roads Policing has confirmed the offence of driving whilst using a mobile phone is not arrestable, however there may be occasions where using a mobile phone was one of a number of offences put to the driver, but it would NOT have been the reason they were arrested. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

Request 5

Since the new laws came into place on March 1 2017 how many drivers have been disqualified from driving by Police Service of Northern Ireland after being caught using their phone whilst driving?

Answer

Enquiries made in relation to your request failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided. Roads Policing has confirmed that the new laws do not apply in Northern Ireland and are not relevant to PSNI. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

Request 6

How many people have been arrested for drink-driving in 2017 by Police Service of Northern Ireland?

Answer

Please see table below:

Age group	Gender		Total
	Female	Male	
Under 18	2	38	40
18 - 29	145	1030	1175
30 - 49	227	1137	1364
50 - 69	113	399	512
70+	8	42	50
Total	495	2646	3141

Source: Statistics Branch, PSNI

Please note: A number of the relevant offences encompass drink or drug driving and Central Statistics Branch has confirmed it is not possible to separate these figures. For this reason, the figures include those who have been arrested for drink/drug driving. Figures are provisional and subject to minor amendment.

Request 7

How many people have been disqualified from driving by Police Service of Northern Ireland as a result of drink driving in 2017?

Answer

Enquiries made in relation to this request failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided. Roads Policing has confirmed that PSNI do not

disqualify drivers as this is the remit of the Court Service. The NI Court Service may be able to assist you further. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

Request 8

How many people have been in a fatal accident as a result of drink driving in 2017?

Please can you provide your answers for Q1, 2, 5, 6, and 7 in a table giving age and gender of the drivers.

Answer

Please see the table below:

Principal causation factor ³	No. of fatal collisions	No. of people killed / injured
Impaired by alcohol (driver/rider)	8	9

Source: Statistics Branch, PSNI

³ Includes collisions where 'impaired by alcohol - driver/rider' was the principal causation factor.

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.