

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2021-00066

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Arrests for Violation of Covid 19 Restrictions

Request and Answer:

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Act we can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does hold information to which your request relates and the decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Request 1

My request relates to the number of people arrested by the police force as a result of a violation of restrictions put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, I would like the following information.

How many individuals have been arrested for breaking COVID-19 restrictions since the beginning of the UK's first national lockdown on March 16, 2020. I would like this data broken down by month between March 16, 2020 and today's date. If data has not been included up to and including today's date, please provide me with data starting from March 16, 2020, to the latest date where data is available.

Request 2

In addition to providing the total number of people arrested for breaking COVID-19 restrictions since the beginning of the UK's first national lockdown on March 16, 2020, please clearly highlight per month, what percentage of these arrests were made against individuals that identify as BAME (Black, Asian or minority ethnic).

I would also like to receive the information in an electronic format.

Answer

Please see the table below detailing custody records each month for the period March 2020 to date where a person was processed through custody for at least one arrest under Coronavirus legislation.

Notes applicable to the data provided

During the time period requested there have been 151 custody records where a person has been arrested for at least one offence under Coronavirus legislation. There have been 140 different individuals arrested; some individuals have been arrested on more than one occasion.

The ethnicity information is based on the details held on the person's NICHE nominal record. PSNI

Statistics Branch cannot make any inference as to whether the person identifies as BAME.

Data was extracted on 19/02/21.

	White	Irish Traveller	Black African, Black Caribbean, Black Other	Other Ethnic Group	Roma	Total
March 2020	0	0	0	0	0	0
April 2020	15	0	2	1	0	18
May 2020	3	0	0	0	0	3
June 2020	0	0	0	0	0	0
July 2020	0	0	0	0	0	0
August 2020	0	0	0	0	0	0
September 2020	6	0	0	0	4	10
October 2020	20	2	1	0	0	23
November 2020	12	0	0	1	0	13
December 2020	19	0	29	0	0	48
January 2021	28	0	1	0	0	29
February 2021 to date	5	0	2	0	0	7
Total	108	2	35	2	4	151

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 Corporate Information Branch, 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 Corporate Information Branch, 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.