

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2022-00187

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Breaches of COVID Passport Legislation

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 (PSNI) does hold information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following:

This Request relates to the following time period: 01/12/2021 to Present

Request 1

How many venues received warnings for breach of Covid passport legislation?

Answer

PSNI can advise that we do not issue warnings for the Health Protection Regulations. It should be noted that, from the commencement of the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequently in regards to ensuring public safety, PSNI have continued with our four step escalation principles: Engage, Encourage, Explain, and Enforce.

PSNI will firstly engage with the person(s) concerned, encourage the person(s) to comply with the regulations, explain the legislation and advise of the reasons. Should these options fail to resolve the issue, where necessary PSNI will revert to powers of enforcement to ensure that the general public is protected from the further spread of Coronavirus.

It must be noted that there has been no formal action taken with the vast majority of premises checked since the inception of certification, with PSNI deeming the processes put in place by venues to be acceptable or only requiring minor adjustments.

Request 2

How many venues received a fine for breaches of Covid passport legislation?

Answer

PSNI have not specifically issued Penalty Notices to any premises for breach of Covid Certification.

In the period since the inception of Covid Certification, 5 venues received Penalty Notices for breaching the Health Protection Regulations, where Certification was one of a multitude of factors involved in the alleged breach.

Request 3

How many prohibition notices were issues due to breaches of Covid passport legislation?

Answer

PSNI have not specifically issued Prohibition Notices to any premises for breach of Covid Certification.

In the period since the inception of Covid Certification, 5 venues received Prohibition Notices for breaching the Health Protection Regulations, where Certification was one of a multitude of factors involved in the breach.

Request 4

What was the range of and total value of any fines handed out to business?

Answer

Of the 5 fines issued for breaches of the Health Protection Regulations:

- Four £1000 fines were issued.
- One individual declined to accept the fine and has opted to go to court.

Request 5

What was the nature of businesses to receive warnings, fines and/or prohibition notices, i.e. pubs, restaurants, cinemas, etc?

Answer

All of the businesses were licenced premises.

Request 6

Have there been any prosecutions brought due to breaches in Covid passport legislation and if so, how many?

Answer

PSNI can advise that there have been no prosecutions brought in regards to breaches of Covid Certification to date.

Request 7

Can I have these figures broken down by policing area?

Answer

Please see the table below, outlining the policing area of where the enforcement mentioned above took place.

Policing area	Total
Belfast	1
Derry City and Strabane	1
North	1
South	2

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 remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, 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', or use the ICO self-service portal available at www.ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/officialinformation-concerns-report/official-information-concern/

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 their discretion.

Please be advised that PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ www.psn.police.uk

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.