

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2022-00281

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Cryptocurrency Seizures

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.

Request 1

How much cryptocurrency has been seized by your force, or the ROCU of which it is part, since 2017? Please provide a breakdown by year and by the type of cryptocurrency (e.g. Bitcoin, Ethereum etc.)

Request 2

How much has been returned to the subjects of any seizure (again, by date and type please).

Answers 1 – 2

Enquires indicate that no Cryptocurrency has been seized by the PSNI's Economic Crime Unit as of February 2022.

Request 3

How do you store cryptocurrency that you have seized?

Answer 3

PSNI have access to third party secure wallets for the storage of Cryptocurrency if required.

Request 4

In cases where seized cryptocurrency is not returned, what happens to it?

Answer 4

The process for retention of funds relating to seized monies is dealt with through the Courts and application of detention / forfeiture would be made.

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.psnipolice.uk

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