



# FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2022-00296

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Incidents at Pharmacies

**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 the information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

**Request 1**

The total number of crimes that occurred at premises registered as a pharmacy (which may be termed as a “chemist” in location codes) between January 1 and December 31 2021

**Answer**

Please see the table below outlining the total number of crimes that occurred at a premises registered as a ‘pharmacy’ for 2021.

Type of Offence	2021
Violence against the person	31
Burglary, robbery and theft	318
Criminal damage and arson	21
Other crimes against society	19
<b>Total Number of Offences</b>	<b>389</b>

This table provides the number of recorded crimes where the occurrence location Modus Operandi (MO) was ‘Pharmacy’ from 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021 and includes the information by the main crime classifications to provide context to Request 2.

**Request 2**

How many assaults or violent crimes including arson were committed at a registered pharmacy between January 1 and December 31 2021?

**Answer**

Please see the table below outlining the total number of specified violent offences, including arson, at a registered ‘pharmacy’ for 2021.

<b>Specified Violent Offence</b>	<b>2021</b>
Violence with injury	3
Violence without injury	21
Other	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>

PSNI can advise that we do not have a specific classification of violent crimes, thus the table includes violence with and without injury offences, robbery and arson. As such:

- Violence with injury includes: 5D Assault with intent to cause serious harm, 8N Assault with injury and 8S Assault with injury on a Constable
- Violence without injury includes: 104 Assault without injury on a constable, 105A Assault without injury and 3B Threats to kill
- Other includes: Arson and Robbery

### **Request 3**

Please can you supply details of the incidents described in Requests 1 and 2, including:

#### **Request 3 A**

If suspects were believed to be armed (and details of suspected weapons, e.g. knife, firearm).

#### **Answer**

Please see the table below outlining the weapon involved in the incident in which the crime was recorded at a 'pharmacy' for 2021.

<b>Weapon</b>	<b>2021</b>
Blunt instrument	1
Knife	1
Physical force	5
No weapon details recorded	382
<b>Total</b>	<b>389</b>

#### **Request 3 B**

Whether anyone was hurt.

#### **Answer**

Please see the table below outlining the victim injury as per the victim report for 2021.

<b>Injury</b>	<b>2021</b>
Minor	3
None	24
Threat	2
Not Applicable	359
Missing/ Unknown	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>389</b>

#### **Request 3 C**

The number of people proceeded against in relation to these incidents, and the type of proceeding and outcome that took place (charge, caution, etc).

#### **Answer**

Please see table below outlining the outcome assigned to recorded offences at 'pharmacies' for 2021.

<b>Outcome Assigned</b>	<b>2021</b>
Charge/Summons	102
Caution	3
Community Resolution	24
PND	5
Evidential Difficulties	52
Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	1
Investigation complete – no suspect identified	141
Outcome not yet assigned	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>389</b>

#### **Request 4**

I would also be interested in any information held by your organisation regarding my request, including a breakdown of the number of different types of crime that occurred at a registered pharmacy between January 1 and December 31, 2021. I understand that I do not have to specify particular files or documents and that it is the department's responsibility to provide the information that I require.

#### **Answer**

Please see the table outlined Answer 1 in response to this Request.

The table in response to Request 1 provides a breakdown of the number of different types of crime that occurred at a registered pharmacy between January 1 and December 31, 2021. As mentioned above, we have included this information in the table above in order to provide context to Request 2.

**Please note that all of this information is based on data extracted from a live system and may be subject to change. It is dependent on the information having been input into the system in such a way as to identify those records that are relevant.**

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](mailto: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/](http://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.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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