

Keeping People Safe



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2022-00303

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Cannabis 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 does hold some information to which your request relates and this is being provided to you. PSNI do not however hold information in relation to Request number 1 below.

This is an information request relating to data released today on seizures of cannabis <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/seizures-of-drugs-in-england-and-wales-financial-year-ending-2021/seizures-of-drugs-in-england-and-wales-financial-year-ending-2021>.

Please include the information for the 2020-21 financial year:

### Request 1

The estimated cost to the police force of enforcing cannabis laws.

### Answer

Enquiries made in relation to your request failed to locate any records or documents relevant to this part of your request as PSNI do not keep a record of time spent on policing cannabis laws.

Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

### Request 2

The estimated market value of the cannabis seized.

### Answer

The seizure data you refer to above relates to England and Wales only. Any information supplied by the PSNI is for Northern Ireland and consequently any cost or value data supplied cannot be used in conjunction with seizure data for England and Wales to e.g. - estimate the cost per seizure.

PSNI in respect of the quantity of Cannabis seized in its various formats (kg and plants) for 2020/21 which aligns with the timeframe for the published statistics referenced within your request, has been published on the PSNI website and can be found in (Figure 3.10) of the drug seizure tables which can be found here:

<https://www.psnl.police.uk/globalassets/inside-the-psni/our-statistics/drug-seizure-statistics/202122/december/drug-seizures-tables-dec-21.xlsx>

**Please note:** The data published by PSNI for 2020/2 is recorded by calendar year, not financial year.

We can advise that it is difficult to give an estimated market value for **all** of the cannabis seized for the reasons outlined below;

Cannabis seizures are recorded as capsules, herbal, joints, oil, plants, resin and other formats.

- 50 capsules were seized in 2020 and 64 in 2021. We do not have a market value price for capsules.
- 878 joints were seized in 2020 and 954 in 2021. There would be little market value to a joint due to the minimal quantity within.
- As other formats are not specified it is not possible to give a market value to these as the prices of various items vary greatly. A total of 608 were recorded as other formats in 2020 and a total of 121 in 2021.

However, we can give a combined market value price for the amount of resin, plants, oils and herbal cannabis seized. In 2020 this was: £10,717,210. In 2021 this was: £33,754,140.

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.psnl.police.uk](http://www.psnl.police.uk)

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