

Keeping People Safe



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2022-00702

**Keyword:** Operational Policing

**Subject:** School Strip Searches

### 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

On how many occasions have school pupils been strip-searched – sometimes described as ‘further searches’ - by officers on school grounds within the last four academic years (beginning August 1st 2018)?

#### Answer

PSNI can advise that there is no marker on a stop and search record to explicitly record that a strip search was carried out, however this information may have been manually entered by an officer into one of the free text fields, such as ‘*Grounds for search*’, on the record. These fields were searched for the phrases ‘strip search’ and ‘strip searched’ for stops that took place since 1 August 2018. Of the records returned, none indicated that a strip search had been carried out by officers on a school pupil on school grounds.

**Please note:** 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.

#### Request 2

Please break down the instances into these categories:

##### Request 2 A

How many were male, how many were female?

##### Request 2 B

How many related to suspicions about i) drugs ii) weapons and iii) stolen property?

##### Request 2 C

How many were i) black and b) all ethnicities other than white?

##### Request 2 D

How many searches were negative with an outcome of no further action recorded?

### **Answers**

Due to the answer for Request 1 being 0, the remainder of the Requests are non-applicable.

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.