

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2022-00976

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Crimes Reported in Belfast City Centre

Request and Answer:

Request 1

Can you tell me how much crime has been reported in the Castle Place, Donegall Place and Royal Avenue, since the start of this year January 1, 2022 to date April 19?

Request 2

Can you break it down, roughly, in terms of most serious crime...including drug crime, robbery, assault, GBH.

Request 3

Can you tell me how much crime was reported in the Castle Place, Donegall Place and Royal Avenue, since the start of this year January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

Request 4

Can you break it down, roughly, in terms of most serious crime...including drug crime, robbery, assault, GBH.

Answer to Requests 1 - 4

Your request for information has now been considered and we are not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states the fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The following exemption has been applied:

Section 21 - Information Reasonably Accessible by Other Means

PSNI can advise that the information requested above can be readily obtained and therefore section 21 of the FOIA can be applied. The purpose of the Section 21 exemption is to ensure that there is no

right of access to information via FOIA if it is available to the requester by another route.

Street level data is published on the [Police.uk website \(https://www.police.uk/\)](https://www.police.uk/) via the crime map feature. You can select an area that covers the streets you are interested in and obtain offence information for the previous 36 months (data is updated monthly).

A breakdown by offence classification can be seen by hovering over each 'hotspot'/grey circle on the map – this will be displayed in the right hand pane, below the drop down menus for crime type and month.

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 email.

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.