

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2022-00979

Keyword: Road Policing

Subject: E-Scooters

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 in relation to Requests 2 and 3, however Request 2 is partially exempt by virtue of Section 22 of the Freedom of Information 2000 Act (FOIA). Additionally, we do not hold information for Request 1. You requested the following information from the PSNI:

Request 1

The number of e-scooters confiscated by your force from 1/1/22 until 31/3/22, and for the same period in 2021.

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 not hold information in relation to Request 1. Enquiries made in relation to your request failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided.

PSNI can advise that whilst a police officer may use powers of seizure to 'confiscate' an e-scooter, if this is achieved by returning it to a station or by transferring it to the parents/guardian of the owner, then the Vehicle Recovery Scheme would have no record of this occurring.

For information, please note that e-scooters are liable to spontaneous combustion of the batteries; hence the current police guidance is to avoid seizing these items due to the fire risk, damage to other property, evidence or indeed police stations.

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

Request 2

The number of accidents logged by your force in these time periods which involved the word 'e scooter'.

Answer

Please see the attached Excel spreadsheet entitled '00979 E-Scooter Spreadsheet' which holds the information to which you seek access in relation to 2021.

Your request for information regarding 2022 has now been considered and we are not obliged to supply the information you have requested under Section 22 of the FOIA.

Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), 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 22: Information Intended For Future Publication

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 it has been decided to refuse access to the information you have requested in relation to 2022. Under Section 22 (1) of the Act, the Police Service of Northern Ireland is not obliged to disclose information that is held with a view to its publication at some future date. The information you requested relating to figures for 2022 is intended to be published by the PSNI later this year.

Section 22 is a qualified exemption so therefore the PSNI is obliged to carry out a Public Interest Test.

Public Interest Test

Factors Favouring Release

PSNI can advise that disclosure would demonstrate PSNI's openness and transparency in relation to the most recent figures relating to accidents logged by PSNI involving e-scooters.

Factors Favouring Retention

The spending of additional funds in order to facilitate this FOI Request would not be in the public interest as this information is due to be released in the near future. In addition, there is a public interest in allowing an organisation space to finalise material which it intends to publish and ensure that all the information being provided is accurate.

Decision

There needs to be a real and valid reason which identifies a tangible benefit to the public from disclosure of information. Figures for all collisions during the period 1st January 2022 to 31st March 2022 are not currently available; they are provisionally scheduled for release in late July 2022. As such it is reasonable to exempt it as publication is imminent.

Request 3

The number of fatalities logged by your force due to collisions involving e scooters in these time periods.

If you are able to provide details on the above, such as reasons for confiscation and any other information about any accidents logged, that would be much appreciated too - but understand this might make the process too lengthy/costly so no worries if not.

Answer

PSNI can advise that there were no reported fatalities as a result of a collision reported to police in which an e-scooter was involved during the requested time periods.

Please note: This data has been extracted from the PSNI Daily Fatal reports. Due to ongoing

validation the information for 2022 is provisional and may be subject to change.

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.psni.police.uk

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