



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2022-01092

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Children In Police Custody

Request and Answer:

Request 1

The number of children detained in police custody under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 from 2017-2022.

Please can I have this figure broken down by annual year. e.g. can you provide a figure for 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 (up until the date of receipt).

Request 2

If you have the data, can you provide the average length of stay (in hours) of the children detained under section 136 in police custody for each annual year. e.g. 2017- average length of stay 3hours
2018- average length of stay 2hours?

Request 3

If you have the data, can you provide the average age of the children in custody for each annual year. e.g. 2017 - average age 16 years old?

Clarification from requester

I would like to clarify that when I say 'detained in police custody', I mean when the subject has been taken to an actual police custody facility.

Answer to Requests 1 - 3

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Act I can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold information in relation to your requests. 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.

Section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 does not extend to Northern Ireland.

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

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.