



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2021-01100

Keyword: Road Policing

Subject: Drink Driving Related Arrests and Penalties (2019-2021)

Request and Answer:

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 hold information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Clarification sought:

Although the data requested is held electronically by PSNI it is held collectively for both 'drink and drug driving'. Due to the PSNI recording system to extract the data specifically for 'drink driving' would require a manual trawl of all these records and this process is estimated to exceed the FOI legislative cost of 18 hours. However to assist in the processing of your request PSNI may be able to provide the data collectively for 'drink and drug driving', can you please advise if you are content to proceed with this clarification.

Clarification received:

The collective data would be helpful.

I would like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act into the number of drink diving related arrests and penalties reported in your constabulary in 2019, 2020 and to date in 2021 please.

I have detailed the request below:

Request 1

How many drink driving related arrests were made by your constabulary over the following time periods?

	2019	2020	2021
January			
February			
March			
April			
May			
June			
July			
August			
September			
October			

November
December

Answer

Number of drink drug driving arrests: 1st January 2019 - 30th April 2021

	2019	2020	2021
January	228	257	195
February	212	236	185
March	278	213	205
April	261	251	205
May	294	293	-
June	253	247	-
July	253	311	-
August	303	273	-
September	280	277	-
October	278	252	-
November	279	246	-
December	369	262	-
Total	3288	3118	790

Please note - figures are provisional and subject to change.

Request 2

How many arrests for drink driving offences resulted in the following penalties?

Fine 2019 2020 2021
Penalty points
Driving ban
Imprisonment

Answer

	2019	2020	2021
Fine	1006	862	98
Penalty Points	35	40	5
Driving Ban*	852	817	113
Imprisonment	28	36	4

*PSNI have interpreted 'driving ban' to be equivalent to disqualification. These numbers include permanent, as well as fixed-term disqualification.

Please note: The numbers reflected in the table above show the number of penalties issued - one person can have multiple penalties issued against them.

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 were to remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request you may make a complaint, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office 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. 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 his 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.