



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2022-01213

**Keyword:** Operational Policing

**Subject:** PNC Statistics

### 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 the information to which your request relates and this is being provided to you. We note that you seek access to the following information:

#### Request 1

Can you explain what you mean by PSNI 'is not a PNC force'?  
What database does PSNI use instead?

#### Answer

PSNI are not subject to Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (England & Wales) as we are subject to The Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989. As such we cannot be a PNC force as we are not subject to the Act. Further information is provided by the College of Policing. Please see the link below:

<https://assets.college.police.uk/s3fs-public/2022-03/Code-of-practice-PNC-LEDS-Glossary.pdf>

We can advise that the PSNI and all Northern Ireland Criminal Justice Organisations: N Ireland Prison service (NIPS), Public Prosecution Service (PPS) and Northern Ireland Court and Tribunal Service's (NICTS) use Criminal Record Viewer (CRV). PSNI update the Police National Computer (PNC) with details on convictions through automation and PNC is optional for all wanted persons or missing persons if there is an evidence led reason to believe the subject has left the PSNI jurisdiction.

The PSNI use the NICHE database system and it is joined through the Criminal Justice Data System (CJDS) to Causeway which is the NICTS and PPS's core system. The results of processes are then reflected on CRV.

#### Request 2

How many people are currently wanted by your force? Please provide details on the offence/crime category.

#### Answer

Please see the table below illustrating the PSNI categorises of total Wanted Persons into thematic

areas. The data below is not subject to offence/crime categorisation.

Please note that the figures provided below fluctuate greatly due to the nature of throughput and operational policing.

<b>Wanted Persons</b>	<b>Total</b>
Wanted on Warrant	1734
Wanted for Interview	1037
Wanted for Breach of Bail	170
Arrest Sought	70
<b>Total as of 20/05/22</b>	<b>2694</b>

### **Request 3**

How many people are currently listed as missing by your force?

### **Answer**

PSNI can advise that a search was carried out on our database at 1600hrs on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022 and identified that there were a total of 67 people with a 'Missing Person' or 'Missing Person – long term' flag attached to their nominal.

Please note that this figure is provisional and can change moments after the search is run, given that it is based on live time information.

However if you require data surrounding individuals flagged on 'PNC' as missing, your Request should be redirected to the Home Office as the owners of the information.

### **Request 4**

How many people are currently listed as 'locate' by your force? Please separate this data by the reason why the police would like to locate the individual?

### **Answer**

Locate rationale is not specified and on all occasions it is for the purpose of attaining a current address that Police can locate individuals at. This could for example be for the future purpose of interview or service of summons.

We can advise that there are 195 'locate & trace' flags currently on Police systems.

Please note that 'Locate & Trace flags' are not pro-actively actioned, their purpose is to highlight that a new address is sought for a subject while engaged by Police in other matters.

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.psnipolice.uk](http://www.psnipolice.uk)

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