



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2022-01527

**Keyword:** Operational Policing

**Subject:** Arrest 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 information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

#### Request 1

What proportion of arrests carried out in the most recent available full year (say 2021 calendar year) have been of suspects who are Foreign Nationals / Ethnic Minorities, please?

#### Request 2

Of those Foreign Nationals / Ethnic Minority people arrested, can you give us a breakdown of what the natures of the suspected offences were (for example, were most of them for motoring offences, violence, theft, etc).

#### Request 3

Are you able to point me to overall statistics giving a breakdown by suspected offence type of all arrests in general, regardless of Nationality / Ethnic background?

#### Request 4

What proportion of all arrests carried out in the most recent available full year (say 2021 calendar year) have been of suspects who are from the Traveller Community, please?

#### Request 5

Of those Travellers arrested, can you give us a breakdown of what the natures of the suspected offences were (for example, were most of them for motoring offences, violence, theft, etc).

#### Request 6

Are you able to point me to overall statistics giving a breakdown by suspected offence type of all arrests in general?

#### Request 7

What proportion of arrests carried out in the most recent available full year (say 2021 calendar year) have been of suspects who are from a Catholic / Nationalist / Republican background?

**Request 8**

How many have been of suspects from a Protestant / Unionist / Loyalist background?

**Request 9**

How many have been suspects from Neither / Undetermined backgrounds?

**Request 10**

What proportion of arrests ON SUSPICION OF TERROR OFFENCES during the last five years have been of suspects who are from a Catholic / Nationalist / Republican background?

**Request 11**

How many have been of suspects from a Protestant / Unionist / Loyalist background?

**Request 12**

How many have been suspects from Neither / Undetermined backgrounds?

**Clarification Sent To Requester;**

Can you please confirm whether a person with Irish Nationality should be included in or excluded from the Foreign National figures?

**Clarification Received From Requester;**

This is a difficult question, but I would say no, on the basis that so much of the resident NI population regard themselves as Irish. However, if you have figures for the number of arrestees whose address is in the Republic of Ireland, we could then class such people as ROI foreign nationals.

Is it possible to break down the statistics in this manner?

**Further Clarification Sent To Requester;**

I have spoken with the business area regarding 'Figures for the Number of Arrestees who's address is in the Republic of Ireland' unfortunately they are unable to break the statistics down in this manner. Are you content to continue with this request and not have Irish Nationals included in foreign nationals on the basis you have provided?

**Further Clarification Received From Requester;**

Yes, I think that's the sensible way to proceed.

**Answers**

Please see the information requested in the Excel spreadsheet.

Please note in conjunction with the information the following caveats:

(i) In regards to Requests 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 the table provides the number of custody arrests for calendar year 2021 by principal arrest offence (the most serious offence in the custody record that the person was arrested for).

(ii) The arrests cover those arrested and processed through custody and are based on the date the detainee is first booked into custody.

(iii) In regards to Requests 7, 8 and 9. PSNI are only able to provide a breakdown for religion we are unable to determine if the individual arrested is from a Loyalist / Nationalist background.

*Please note; These statistics do not include those who were arrested and then de-arrested prior to being taken to a custody suite.*

(iv) Arrests under Section 41 Terrorism Act 2000 and Section 136 Mental Health detentions are excluded.

(v) In regards to Requests 10, 11 and 12, PSNI cannot identify the number of arrests on suspicion of 'Terror Offences' by religion. However we have provided the number of security related charges under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act by Attribution.

*Attribution is as perceived by the PSNI based on the information available at the time of the incident and does not necessarily indicate the involvement of a paramilitary organisation.*

***Please Note: This information is based on data extracted from a live system and may be subject to change. It is dependent on the information having been input into the system in such a way as to identify those records that are relevant.***

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.police.uk](mailto:foi@psni.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.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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