

Keeping People Safe



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2021-01936

**Keyword:** Organisational Information/Governance

**Subject:** Covid Enforcement Of Guidelines

### 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.

#### Request 1

I would like the breakdown of the enforcement and jurisdictions the PSNI had for COVID guidelines violators in June 2020.

And what the actions of the PSNI from 101 to investigative officers would be when a member of the public rings and reports COVID violators in a local shop (a shop that allows ANYONE in at ANY TIME throughout the entire pandemic, without any capacity checks or facemasks etc).

#### Request 2

I would like the breakdown of the enforcement and jurisdictions the PSNI has EVER had for COVID violators in December 2020.

And what the actions of the PSNI from 101 to investigative officers would be when a member of the public rings and reports COVID violators in a local shop (a shop that allows ANYONE in at ANY TIME throughout the entire pandemic, without any capacity checks or facemasks etc).

#### Request 3

I would like the breakdown of the enforcement and jurisdictions the PSNI has EVER had for COVID violators in June 2021.

And what the actions of the PSNI from 101 to investigative officers would be when a member of the public rings and reports COVID violators in a local shop (a shop that allows ANYONE in at ANY TIME throughout the entire pandemic, without any capacity checks or facemasks etc).

### Answer to Requests 1 – 3

Please find below a breakdown of the enforcement for the months you seek in Requests 1, 2 and 3:

June 2020 – 70 x COVID 1 notices and 3 x CRN

December 2020 – 254 x COVID 2, 2 x COVID 3, 852 x COVID 4, 16 x COVID 5, 407 x CRN, 145 x other

June 2021 - 41 x COVID 2, 267 x COVID 7, 16 x COVID 8, 3 x COVID 9, 41 x CRN, 13 x other

Please note that the above figures are subject to change:

Enforcement in retail premises lies primarily with local Councils and as such reports relating to these during the course of the pandemic should in the first instance have been referred to the relevant Environmental Health Office. However, it must be noted that each report is considered on its own merits and there were times when Police assisted by attending reports and engaging with both staff and customers

### **Further Assistance**

Information regarding enforcement is available to the public on the PSNI website (link below). This has all enforcement per District since March 2020

[Coronavirus \(Covid-19\) advice and information \(psni.police.uk\)](https://psni.police.uk)

### **Note:**

With regard to your use of the word “jurisdictions” in Requests 1-3, we have interpreted this as you asking about the jurisdiction of the PSNI and we can advise that the PSNI operates within the single jurisdiction of Northern Ireland.

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/](https://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](https://www.psni.police.uk)

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

