

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2021-00049

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Arrests & Charges under Vagrancy Act

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

Request

The number of people a) arrested b) charged by officers of your force under the Vagrancy Act 1824 the Vagrancy Act 1824 (as amended by the Summary Jurisdiction and Criminal Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 1935) and Vagrancy Act 1947 in each calendar month of 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Answer

Please see the tables below detailing the number of persons arrested and charged for Vagrancy Act offences.

The following notes are applicable to the data provided

¹ The data has been extracted where a person has been arrested and processed in police custody for an offence under Vagrancy Act 1824 & Vagrancy Act 1847.

Information presented is count of individuals arrested/charged each month

Person may have been arrested more than once in a month

Unique number of individuals arrested 126.

Information extracted from custody data extracts from the NICHE recording database where person arrested for an offence under the Vagrancy Act 1824 or 1847. The request has asked for persons arrested/charged per month, therefore if person arrested more than once in any one month count in the table will be 1. Figures may differ from previous requests where the information requested was for the number of arrests in a time period e.g. if arrested twice in a month then the count will be 2.

Number of persons arrested by month for offences under Vagrancy Act

Month	2018	2019	2020
January	2	2	7
February	5	5	8
March	2	6	0
April	6	5	0
May	3	5	3
June	4	8	1
July	11	10	2
August	1	5	1
September	5	6	3
October	4	5	1
November	3	14	5
December	15	11	6
Total	61	82	37

Number of persons arrested and subsequently charged by month under Vagrancy Act

Month	2018	2019	2020
January	2	2	6
February	4	4	6
March	2	4	0
April	4	5	0
May	3	3	3
June	4	7	0
July	5	7	1
August	0	5	1
September	3	6	2
October	4	3	1
November	2	10	4
December	10	9	6
Total	43	65	30

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.