



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2020-00836

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Breach of Coronavirus (COVID 19) Measures

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

Between 23rd March and 5th April (two-week period only) could you provide the number of arrests/cautions/fines which have been carried out by your police force in relation to Covid 19 measures being breached?

Could the number for each be provided separately? I.e Arrests, Cautions, Fines.

Answer

The following information is specific to the period 23rd March to 5th April 2020 only:

Arrests - 0

Cautions - 0

Fines - 0

Please note the following in conjunction with the responses provided :

- There were no arrests relating to breaches of the covid regulations between 23rd March and 5th April 2020. This response is based on a search of custody records for the offence: 'Contravention of restriction on movement during emergency period, contrary to Regulation 8(1)(b) of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020'.
- The term 'caution' in your request was interpreted to be the official Criminal Justice sanctioned outcome i.e. Adult/Juvenile Caution and the response provided is based on this interpretation. Offences can be disposed of by other means.
- Information is based on data extracted from a live crime recording 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. It should also be noted for the data input onto the Niche computer system PSNI cannot protect the data against any input errors which may have influenced these figures.

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.