



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2020-00954

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Coronavirus (Covid-19) - Offences

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.

Since the introduction of The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) Regulations 2020 and The Coronavirus Act 2020 on 25 March 2020 (or applicable Covid-19 laws) to the current date:

Request 1

How many offences have been recorded by the force and under what law? (E.g. The health Protection Act regulation 7 or The Coronavirus act: schedule 21)?

Answer

None. As a 'Transmission Control Period' to date has not been declared.

Request 2

How many Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) have been issued and under what law?

Answer

As of 18 May 2020 (covering the period up to 17 May 2020), a total of 397 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) have been issued. These have been issued under 'The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020'.

Request 3

How many arrests have been made and under what law?

Answer

Since the 25 March 2020 there have been a total of two arrests made for offences relating to Covid-19 legislation and both arrests were for a breach of the following offence namely 'Contravention of requirement in Regulation 5', which is restriction of movement.

Request 4

How many charges have been brought and under what law?

Answer

As of 4 May 2020, a total of 7 charges have been brought and all have been for 'Contravention of requirement in Regulation 5'.

Request 5

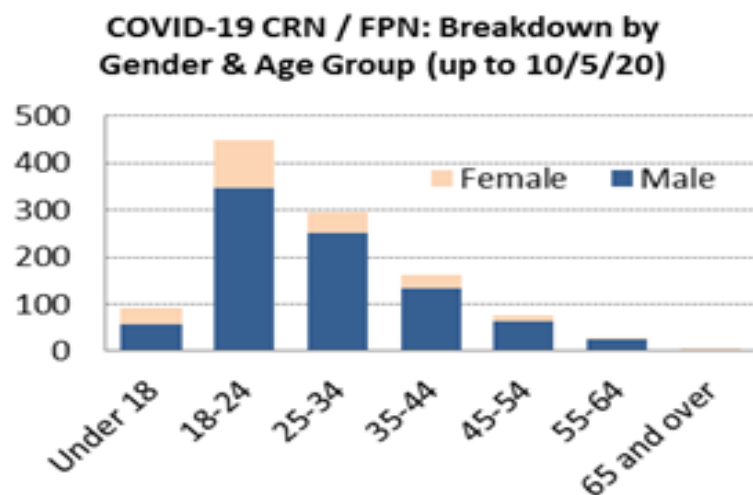
For all responses, please provide a summary of the alleged offences where possible and an offender breakdown by age, gender and ethnicity.

Answer

The alleged offences were all for Contravention of requirement in Regulation 5 refers to Restrictions on movement (i.e.) non-essential travel.

As of 18 May 2020, 77% of Community Resolution Notices (CRNs) and 84% of FPNs have been issued to males. A total of 40% of the recipients receiving a CRN are aged 18 to 24 and 24% are aged 25 to 34. A total of 43% of the recipients receiving fines are aged 18 to 24 and 31% are aged 25 to 34.

Please see a breakdown in the graph provided below:



The table below provides a breakdown for the 'Ethnicity' recorded by PSNI and please note these figures are only available for CRNs.

Ethnicity	Total
Black African	3
Black Caribbean	1
Black Other	2
Irish Traveller	6
Mixed	2
Other Ethnicity	9
Pakistani	1
Unknown	111
White	585
Total	720

Please note the following in conjunction with the responses provided:

1 The data refers to the 'ethnicity' held on the PSNI Niche computer system for the person; however it may not have been recorded at the time of the CRN being issued.

2 PSNI cannot stand over the data as being completely accurate, as the data could be officer defined (incorrectly) or the person could have provided incorrect data for various reasons.

Under Section 16 – Duty to Assist, PSNI social media platforms will be kept updated with figures of the number of fines and Community Resolution Notices issued under The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (NI) 2020 on Wednesday each week going forward.

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.