

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2020-01039

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Coronavirus (Covid 19) -Coronavirus Act 2020 Police Powers

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

Following the passage of the Coronavirus Act 2020, the number of times police have used new powers to detain individuals to be tested if they are believed to be infectious.

Answer

This power has not been declared by N.I. Executive therefore has never been used.

Request 2

Following the passage of the Coronavirus Act 2020, the number of times police have used new powers to restrict individuals' right to move around or be part of a gathering.

Answer

Police have issued the following number of Penalty Notices (PN) and Community Resolution Notices (CRN) in relation to the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 :

Contravention of a requirement in regulation 5 (Restrictions on movement)
PN – 392 CRN – 691

Contravention of a requirement under regulation 3,4,6 or 7 (Restrictions on gatherings)
PN – 53 CRN - 44

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.