



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2020-01112

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Domestic Violence Protection Notices

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 some information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Request 1

The number of Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPNs) issued between 23 March and 10 May in 2019 and the same dates for 2020.

Request 2

- (i). The number of breaches of Domestic Violence Protection Orders and separately DVPNs between 23 March and 10 May in 2019 and the same dates for 2020.
- (ii). The number of arrests made for breaches of DVPNs and separately DVPOs, between 23 March and 10 May in 2019 and the same dates for 2020.

Answers 1 and 2

Enquiries made in relation to above requests failed to locate any records or documents relevant to this part of your request.

Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPO) and Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPN) legislations are not currently in place in Northern Ireland.

Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

Request 3

The number of arrests made for breaches of non-molestation/non harassment orders between 23 March and 10 May in 2019 and the same dates for 2020.

Answer

There were a total of 50 arrests for the offence of Breach of a non-molestation order (4721024) in the period 23 March 2019 – 10 May 2019 and a total of 34 arrests in the period 23 March 2020 – 10 May 2020.

This information was extracted from the custody data extracts from NICHE and includes those individuals who were arrested and processed through police custody. It will not include persons arrested and street bailed or those dealt with by other means such as community resolution or penalty notices for disorder.

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.