



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2020-01133

**Keyword:** Operational Policing

**Subject:** Section 24 (3) Searches in Lurgan area

### 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.

#### Clarification sought:

Is the request for the number of persons, vehicles, or premises searched under Section 24 (3) of the Justice and Security Act 2000? Please note this information can only be provided at a District level i.e. Lurgan.

#### Clarification received:

Can it be broken down at all beyond 'Lurgan' and also can you confirm where Lurgan covers? The request is for the number of persons, vehicles and premises searched under Section 24 (3) of the Justice and Security Act 2000.

#### Clarification sought:

We can only supply information for the Lurgan local policing area. The geographical level requested in (ii) is not recorded on the Stop and Search ticket.

Can you advise if you are happy with this?

#### Clarification received:

It will have to do.

### Request

How many searches have been carried out in the Lurgan area under 24(3) of the justice and security act broken down as follows:

(i) 2018, 2019, 2020

(ii) Banbridge West, Banbridge South, Banbridge North, Banbridge East, Rathfriland, Loughbrickland Gilford, Kernan, Derrytrasna, Craigavon Centre, Brownlow, Bleary, Waringstown, Quilly, Gransha Dromore, Donaghcloney, Shankill, Parklake, Mourneview, Magheralin, Lough Road, Knocknashane Aghagallon

## Answer

Table 1 provided below provides the number of stop and searches conducted by the PSNI under the Justice and Security Act Section 24 in Lurgan local policing area during 2018, 2019 and 2020 (to 31 May). (See map below).

Please note that officers record if each stop and search involved (i) only a person, (ii) only a vehicle or (iii) both a person and a vehicle together. Searches involving both a person and a vehicle together are counted in each of the categories in Table 1, therefore **the figures for persons searched and vehicles searched should not be added together to get the total number of stop and searches.**

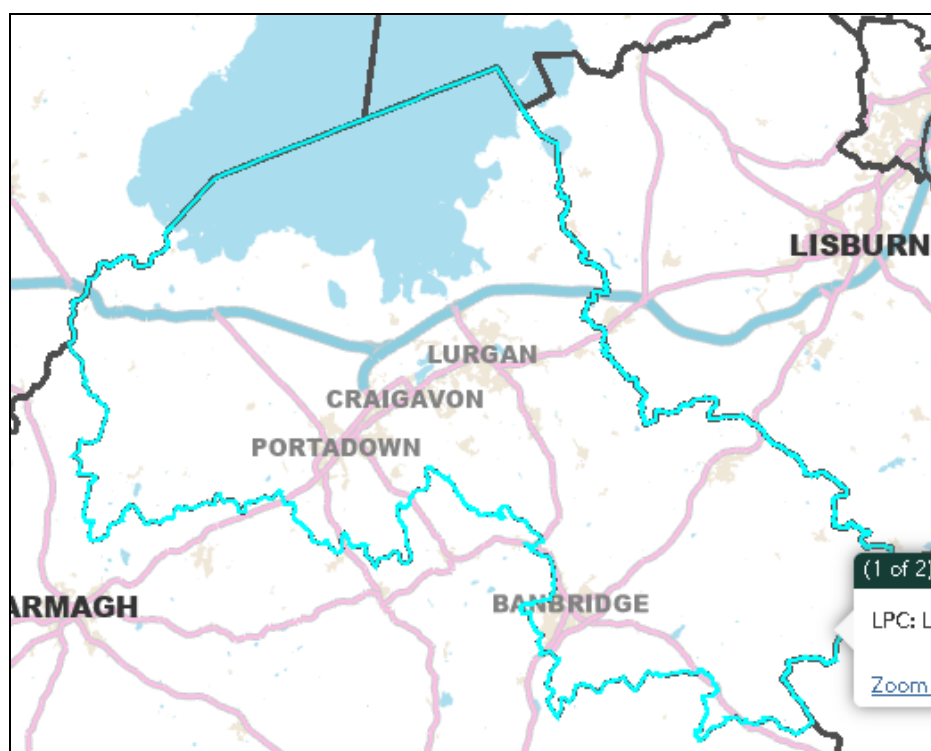
Table 1 <sup>(1)</sup>

	2018	2019	2020 (to 31 May) <sup>(2)</sup>
Persons searched	792	456	242
Vehicles searched	810	496	180

(1) Refers to stops conducted under the Justice and Security Act Section 24 alone, or in combination with other powers.

(2) Please note that figures for 2020 are provisional and subject to change.

Please find below the map which outlines Lurgan local policing area.



The premises searches recorded under Section 24(3) of the Justice and Security Act are supplied at a District level as the data is not recorded in the smaller geographical area as requested.

Table 2 below provides the number of premises searched by the PSNI under the Justice and Security Act Section 24 in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon policing district during 2018 2019 and up to 31 May 2020.

	2018	2019	2020 (to 31 May)
Premises searched	14	17	0

Please note that 2019 figures are correct as at 4 August 2020 and figures are provisional and subject to amendment.

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](mailto: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](http://www.psni.police.uk)

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.