



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2020-01230

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Stop and Search

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

Statistics broken down by year and by ethnicity for the last five years (April to March) for each of the following:

- (a) Stop and Account
- (b) Stop and Search
- (c) Vehicle Stops

Answer Part A

Enquires made in relation to your request failed to locate any records or documents relevant to this part of your request. PSNI do not collate data on Stop and Account encounters

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

Answer Parts B and C

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 Tables 1 and 2, therefore **the figures should not be added together to get the total number of stop and searches.**

Table 1: Number of persons stopped and searched/questioned by the PSNI during the past 5 financial years, by ethnicity.

Ethnicity ⁽¹⁾	Financial Year				
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
White	32,640	29,879	28,364	26,692	24,219
Irish Traveller	809	731	779	618	491
Chinese or Other	372	279	295	288	276
Black	148	151	156	170	137

Mixed	75	90	101	120	91
Asian	72	77	90	88	95
Not specified	55	67	97	140	141
Total number of persons	34,171	31,274	29,882	28,116	25,450

(1) Ethnicity may be officer perceived. A degree of undercounting may exist for the Irish Traveller category as some Irish Travellers are likely to be categorised as White.

Table 2: Number of vehicles stopped and searched by the PSNI during the past 5 financial years.

	Financial Year				
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Number of Vehicles	35,266	27,831	22,865	21,329	17,057

Request 2

Please can you tell me the total population for your policing area broken down by year for the last five years (April to March).

Request 3

Please can you tell me the total population broken down by year and by ethnicity for your policing area for the last five years (April to March)

Answer 2 – 3

Population estimates are not police statistics, however to be of assistance we have provided a link below where population data can be found:

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/population/mid-year-population-estimates>

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.