



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2020-01246

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Fines and Cautions for Breaches of Covid-19 Restrictions

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

Please give a total and breakdown of fines/cautions given out for breaches of any coronavirus restrictions to date.

Request 2

Please include what these fines/cautions were for.

Answer 1 – 2

Please find in the table the overall statistics from 1st April – 31st July 2020.

1st April – 31st July 2020	Cov-1 Penalty Notices	Community Resolution Notices
April	379	635
May	31	95
June	73	11
July	1	0
Total	484	741

The statistics provided below provide a further breakdown for each regulation. Please note that a 'PN' refers to a 'Cov-1 penalty notice' and a 'CRN' refers to a 'Community Resolution Notice'.

Contravention of requirement to: close businesses; close premises; restrict gatherings (Regulations 3, 4 & 6)

- Total PN's issued = 52
- Total CRN's issued = 44

Contravention of restriction on movement (Regulation 5)

- Total PN's issued = 393
- Total CRN's issued = 688

Obstructing a person carrying out a function under the regulations

- Total PN's issued = 3
- Total CRN's issued = 4

Failure to comply with a prohibition notice under Regulation 7

- Total PN's issued = 31
- Total CRN's issued = 5

Regulation not recorded

- Total PN's issued = 5
- Total CRN's = 0

No 'cautions' were issued in this period for offences relating to Covid-19 legislation.

Please note: This information is based on data extracted from a live crime recording system and may be subject to change. It is dependent on the information having been input into the system in such a way as to identify those records that are relevant.

A key role for the Police Service of Northern Ireland is to support our public health colleagues and the NI Executive to ensure we all play our part in stopping the spread of the coronavirus and help save lives.

Throughout the period of the Pandemic the Police Service of Northern Ireland have worked closely with our colleagues in the Department of Health and other partner agencies to ensure that policing operations fully supported the joint effort to protect the public and save lives.

Our approach has always been Engage, Explain, Encourage and Enforcement with any emphasises on Enforcement being fully considered with all our partners.

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.psnipolice.uk

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

