

Keeping People Safe



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2020-01355

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** COVID-19 Restriction Breaches - Under 18s

### 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

How many under 18 year olds have been arrested or charged by your officers because of the COVID-19 restriction breaches? If this is less than 5 please say <5 or 0 as appropriate. Otherwise, please state the actual number.

#### Answer

No persons under 18 years old have been arrested or charged by PSNI because of the COVID-19 restriction breaches.

#### Request 2

Prior to receiving this email, was your constabulary aware that the law related to COVID-19 restrictions only applies to those aged 18 and above?

#### Answer

Yes

#### Request 3

Prior to receiving this email, did your constabulary do anything to ensure that those under the age of 18 were not arrested or charged for breaches of the COVID-19 restrictions?

#### Answer

Being aware that the regulations did not refer to them our operational guidance was to that effect.

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.