



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2020-01356

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Number of FOI Requests From May 2016

Request and Answer:

Your request for information has now been considered. We apologise for the delay in reverting to you. 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 information you have requested.

Request 1

Could the PSNI confirm how many FOI requests it has received annually?

Answer

Please find in the table below the number of Freedom of Information requests received by the PSNI from 2011 – July 2020.

[Please note FOI requests received from individual requestors often contain more than one request for information in one correspondence submitted. Total numbers are recorded by PSNI as ‘subsets’. The ‘subsets’ represent the total number of FOI requests handled by PSNI per calendar year.]

Year	Total Requestors	Sub Sets
2011 (from September – December)	282	1193
2012	927	3243
2013	1166	3888
2014	1327	4726
2015	1305	4550
2016	1603	5265
2017	1622	5743
2018	1456	5320
2019	1515	5430
2020 (to the end of July)	739	2496

Request 2

How many FOI act replies (annually) the PSNI has replied to within the FOI act time frame in each of the last ten years.

Enquiry to Requester

To enable the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) to meet your request in relation to questions 2 and 3, would you be willing to accept data from 2016? This is because we started to use our new system in 2016 and any information held prior to this would require a manual trawl to retrieve the information, and hence put the whole request over cost. Can you advise if you are willing to having information re Q2 & 3 from 2016 onwards?

Reply from Requester

Yes, if the system has been updated since 2016 I will accept data from 2016 onwards.

Answer

Please find in the table below the number of individual FOI requests answered by the PSNI within the appropriate time limit, from May 2016 – July 2020. Please note this does not contain a subset breakdown of requests.

Year	Total Requests/Requestors
2016 (from May)	678
2017	667
2018	208
2019	491
2020 (to end of July)	340

FOI requests received from January 2005 - April 2016 were logged on an older version of our case management system which has been archived since we received an upgrade in 2016.

Request 3

In addition, for each of the last ten years, could the PSNI confirm how many complaints annually have been made against the PSNI to the ICO's office in relation to delayed FOI act replies?

Answer

Please find in the table below the number of Section 50 complaints raised to the PSNI by the Information Commissioners Office (ICO), specifically in relation to FOI requests which were delayed or in excess of the FOI legislation of 20 days. The PSNI has worked closely with the Information Commissioner's Office in particular where we have experienced delays in handling FOI requests.

Year	Total
2016 (from May)	2
2017	10
2018	27
2019	20
2020	2

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.