



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2020-01378

**Keyword:** Operational Policing

**Subject:** Schedule 21 of the Coronavirus Act

### 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 not hold information in relation to your requests.

#### Request 1

Please provide the following information about your force's exercise of powers under Schedule 21 of the Coronavirus Act between March 2020 and the end of June 2020; if you do not hold this information for the whole length of the period stated above, please provide it for the period starting from the date you began recording the information:

The number of times your force has exercised powers under Schedule 21 of the Coronavirus Act, and which powers were used.

#### Answer

None.

#### Request 2

Whether or not on each occasion the use of those powers followed consultation with a public health officer.

#### Request 3

The number of hours each individual has been detained under Schedule 21 of the Coronavirus Act.

#### Request 4

The following information about each person who was subject to enforcement under Schedule 21 of the Coronavirus Act: self-defined ethnicity, officer-defined ethnicity, nationality, date of incident.

#### Request 5

The number of times enforcement under Schedule 21 of the Coronavirus Act has been used in conjunction with mobile biometrics fingerprint scanners and the associated app.

#### Answers 2- 5

The Department of Health in Northern Ireland has not declared a transmission control period under Schedule 21.

To further assist with your requests, PSNI can advise that Schedule 21 Coronavirus Act 2020 (Part 5 of which applies to Northern Ireland) confers powers relating to potentially infected person.

Schedule 21 enables the Department of Health to declare a Transmission Control Period if the Department Of Health are of the view that the incidence or transmission of coronavirus constitutes a serious and imminent threat to public health in Northern Ireland, and the powers conferred by this Part of this Schedule will be an effective means of delaying or preventing significant further transmission of coronavirus in Northern Ireland.

The Transmission Control Period ends when the Department Of Health is no longer of that view. The powers under Schedule 21 are therefore only exercisable during a Transmission Control Period.

Northern Ireland has never declared a 'Transmission Control Period' under the Coronavirus Act and therefore not implemented powers under Schedule 21, at any time to date.

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.psnj.police.uk](http://www.psnj.police.uk)

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