



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2020-01868

**Keyword:** Organisational Information/Governance

**Subject:** Face coverings

### 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

How many fixed penalty notices have been issued by your police force in relation to people failing to comply with rules on wearing face coverings?

I am interested in the duration of the time face coverings have been a legal requirement, which I believe was July - so 1 July 2020 until 30 September

### Answer

Within the requested timeframe we can advise that PSNI have not issued any fines in relation to the wearing of face coverings.

PSNI have continued with our four step escalation principles, **Engage, Encourage, Explain, and Enforce**. PSNI will firstly engage with the person/s concerned, encourage the person/s to comply with the regulations, explain the legislation and advise of the reasons for same. Should these options fail to resolve the issue, where necessary PSNI will revert to powers of enforcement to ensure that the general public is protected from the further spread of coronavirus.

The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Wearing of Face Coverings) Regulations (N.I.) 2020 - regarding the wearing of face coverings on public transport came into force at 23.00 hrs on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2020. The amendment regarding the wearing of face coverings in shops and designated public places came into force at 00.01 hrs on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

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.