

Keeping People Safe



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2020-01963

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Incidents Involving UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) or Drones

### Request and Answer:

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Act we can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does hold information to which your request relates and the decision has been taken to disclose the following.

#### Request 1

The amount of incidents recorded by your police force involving UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) or Drones since January 1st 2019.

#### Answer

There were 581 incidents identified according to the criteria outlined below.

#### Request 2

The amount of offences recorded with by your police force involving UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) or Drones since January 1st 2019.

#### Answer

Of the 581 incidents, 7 resulted in a crime being recorded.

#### Request 3

The amount of arrests recorded with by your police force for offences involving UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) or Drones since January 1st 2019.

#### Answer

There were 3 records identified according to the criteria outlined below where a person was arrested and processed through custody.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The information provided is based on incidents, crimes and arrests identified through the following search criteria being applied:

- where the incident report date, arrest date is 1 January 2019 to 31 October 2020.

- where the text 'drone', 'UAV' or 'unmanned aerial vehicle' has been included in the call for service or in the circumstances of arrest. Attempts have been made to exclude addresses or names

*including the text 'drone' e.g. Drone's Road from the search criteria, however it is not possible to exclude all such use of the text 'drone' in addresses or names. It is also possible that the term 'drone' has been picked up through misspelling, for example where 'drone' has been typed instead of 'drove'.*

*- the call for service and circumstances of arrest details have not been read through to establish the context in which the text 'drone' has been used.*

*The incidents have been identified where the text 'drone' has been included in the call for service. Statistics Branch can only conduct a text search of the call for service field. Therefore if mention of 'drone' is made in any other part of the NICHE occurrence, this will not have been identified by Statistics Branch meaning the information provided in this response may be incomplete.*

**Information is based on data extracted from a live 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.**

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.