

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2020-02143

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Stop and Searches and the Terrorism Act 2000

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.

Clarification sought.

Can you clarify the dates when you want the information as Section 43 of the Terrorism Act 2000 was introduced before July 2012. We can supply figures from 2007/2008.

Clarification received.

If you can go back as far as you can please with regards to Section 43 that would be appreciated.

Request 1

How many stop and searches have been made under section 44 of the terrorism Act 2000, since it was introduced on the 19th of February 2001?

Answer

In July 2005 the PSNI began collating data for the number of stop and searches conducted under Section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000.

Between July 2005 and 7 July 2010 (when Section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 was repealed), under this legislation the PSNI stopped and searched a total of 52,193 persons.

Request 2

How many arrests were made from stop/searches under section 44 of the terrorism act 2000, since it was introduced on the 19th of February 2001?

Answer

From October 2007, PSNI began collating the number of persons stopped and searched under Section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 and subsequently arrested.

Between October 2007 and 7 July 2010 (when Section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 was repealed) the PSNI arrested a total of 348 persons, following their stop and search under this legislation.

Please note that the reason for arrest may not be linked to the initial reason of the stop and

search.

Request 3

How many stop and searches have been made under section 43 of the terrorism act 2000, since it was introduced on the 10th July 2012?

Answer

From 7 November 2007, PSNI started collating the number of stop and searches conducted under Section 43 of the Terrorism Act 2000 and the number of persons subsequently arrested from April 2008.

Between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2020, the PSNI stopped and searched a total of 1,797 persons under Section 43 of the Terrorism Act 2000.

Request 4

How many arrests were made from stop/searches under section 43 of the terrorism Act 2000, since it was introduced on the 10th July 2012?

Answer

Of those 1,797 persons stopped and searched by the PSNI under Section 43 of the Terrorism Act 2000 between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2020, 83 were subsequently arrested.

Please note that the reason for arrest may not be linked to the initial reason of the stop and search.

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.