

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: FOI-2020-02216

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Arrests made for supplying/possessing controlled drugs 2017-2020

Request and Answer:

Request

How many arrests have your police force made for the offences of

- a) supplying controlled drugs or
- b) possession with intent to supply controlled drugs

in the last four calendar years
(2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 so far)?

Answer

Your request for information has now been considered and we are not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states the fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The following exemption has been applied:

Section 21 - Information Reasonably Accessible by Other Means

The information you request is publically available on the PSNI website and for convenience I have provided a link to the website below:

<https://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/drug-seizure-statistics/>

Please note the information you require is available within the publication titled 'Drug Seizures and Arrests Annual Trends 2006/07 to 2019/20' published on the 9th October 2020. In the accompanying spreadsheet figure 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 list drug-related arrests for each financial year, split by supply, possession and other, and split by under and over 18.

Please also take note of the publication 'Drug seizures and arrests quarterly update to 30 September 2020' published on the 29th October 2020. Figure 7 lists drug-related arrests for each month from April 2015 to September 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 email.

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.psnipolice.uk

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