



# FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2021-02426

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Psychoactive Substances Crime Stats

**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. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

For each of the years 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 could you please provide the following information:

**Request 1**

How many crimes under the Psychoactive Substances Act were recorded?

**Answer**

Please see the table below.

Year	Number of crimes recorded
2016	6
2017	4
2018	0
2019	2
2020	2
2021 to 25th October	2

**Please note** that the figures for 2021 are provisional and subject to change.

**Request 2**

How many crimes under the Psychoactive Substances Act were recorded with nitrous oxide as the named substance?

**Answer**

The crime records identified were linked to a property table; no property records relating to nitrous oxide were identified.

### Request 3

For each crime recorded under the Psychoactive Substances Act, could you tell me the substance involved and the type of offence (ie. supply of a psychoactive substance, production, possession, etc)

### Answer

The type of offence has been provided in the table below. The type of drug has not been provided as the crime records are linked to a property table. In the property table there is mention of 'Spice' in one crime record, another record mentions 'Skyhigh,' however we cannot say whether this is a drug under the Psychoactive Substances Act. The remaining records only mention suspect legal high/psychoactive etc or mention drugs which fall under Class A, B or C.

Furthermore, custody records and related case files for arrest and charges were examined for mention of nitrous oxide or type of psychoactive drugs involved. Out of all of the records checked only one record related to Nitrous Oxide. The remaining records related to Cannabis, Herbal Matters etc.

Year	Number of crimes recorded	Type of offence recorded
2016	6	Possession of a psychoactive substance with intent to supply
2017	4	Possession of a psychoactive substance with intent to supply & supplying a psychoactive substance
2018	0	
2019	2	Possession of a psychoactive substance with intent to supply & supplying a psychoactive substance
2020	2	Possession of a psychoactive substance with intent to supply & supplying a psychoactive substance
2021 to 25th October	2	Possession of a psychoactive substance with intent to supply

### Request 4

How many arrests were made for offences under the Psychoactive Substances Act?

### Answer

Please see below the number of custody records where a person was arrested and processed through custody for at least one offence under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016.

Year	Number of custody records
2016	6
2017	14
2018	4
2019	2
2020	15
2021 to 25th October	2

**Please note** that the figures for 2021 are provisional and subject to change.

### Request 5

How many arrests were made for offences under the Psychoactive Substances Act with nitrous oxide as the named substance?

**Answer**

One arrest was made in relation to nitrous oxide as the named substance.

**Request 6**

How many people were charged for offences under the Psychoactive Substances Act?

**Answer**

Please see below the number of persons charged with at least one offence under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016.

Year	Number of persons charged
2016	2
2017	7
2018	1
2019	1
2020	8
2021 to 25th October	0

**Request 7**

How many people were charged for offences under the Psychoactive Substances Act with nitrous oxide as the named substance?

**Answer**

None.

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 remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, 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', or use the ICO self-service portal available at [www.ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/officialinformation-concerns-report/official-information-concern/](http://www.ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/officialinformation-concerns-report/official-information-concern/)

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 their 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.