



# FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** FOI-2021-02449

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Crimes Committed at Pharmacies 2019 -2020

**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 (PSNI) does hold some of the information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

I would like to request some information relating to crimes committed at pharmacies in Northern Ireland under the Freedom of Information Act. Please can you supply the following information:

**Request 1**

The total number of crimes that occurred at premises registered as a pharmacy (which may be termed as a “chemist” in location codes) between January 1 and December 31 2019

**Request 2**

The total number of crimes that occurred at premises registered as a pharmacy (which may be termed as a “chemist” in location codes) between January 1 and December 31 2020

**Answers 1 and 2**

Please see table below outlining the total number of crimes that occurred at a premises registered as a pharmacy for the years 2019 and 2020;

Type of Offence	2019	2020
Violence against the person and sexual offences	34	26
Burglary, robbery and theft	600	361
Criminal damage and arson	13	15
Other crimes against society	39	28
<b>Total Number of Offences</b>	<b>686</b>	<b>430</b>

This table provides the number of recorded crimes where the occurrence location Modus Operandi (MO) was ‘Pharmacy’ from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 through to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 and includes the information by the main crime classifications to provide context to answers for Request 3 and 4.

### Request 3

How many assaults or violent crimes including arson were committed at a registered pharmacy between January 1 and December 31 2019?

### Request 4

How many assaults or violent crimes including arson were committed at a registered pharmacy between January 1 and December 31 2020?

### Answers 3 and 4

Please see table below outlining specified offences that were committed at a registered pharmacy during 2019 and 2020;

Specified Offence	2019	2020
Violence with injury	5	4
Violence without injury	27	13
Other	8	4
<b>Total</b>	40	21

PSNI can advise that we do not have a specific classification of violent crimes, thus the table includes violence with and without injury offences, robbery and arson. As such:

- Violence with injury includes: 5D Assault with intent to cause serious harm, 8N Assault with injury and 8S Assault with injury on a Constable
- Violence without injury includes: 104 Assault without injury on a constable, 105A Assault without injury and 3B Threats to kill
- Other includes: Arson and Robbery

**Please can you supply details of the incidents described in points 3 and 4, including:**

### Request 5 A

Time and date of reported crime

### Answer 5 A

Please see below the total number of recoded offences broken down by month, time and year and due this information being low level data it has been provided in the format in the table below:

Month	Times	2019	Times	2020
January	13:33 10:13 17:20	3	12:31 10:06	2
February	09:18 09:18	2	10:33 17:41 17:27 x2	4
March	13:31	1	12:04 14:43 14:05	3
April	17:13 17:02 14:09 15:53 13:25	5	16:17	1
May	09:56 18:16 15:58	4	15:43	1

	12:27			
June	15:57 11:06 10:05 14:29	4	12:45	1
July	15:05 x2 13:01 x2	4		0
August	13:03	1	12:41	1
September	16:12 x2 16:21	3	10:48	1
October	11:19 19:11 09:00	3	14:11 18:08 09:54	3
November	12:56 14:34 16:56 16:14	4	16:27 15:41	2
December	16:35 14:27 x2 14:19 08:27	5	11:43 16:14	2

### Request 5 B

If suspects were believed to be armed (and details of suspected weapons, e.g. knife, firearm)

### Answer 5 B

Please see table below outlining the weapon involved in the incident in which the crime was recorded for 2019 and 2020;

Weapon	2019	2020
Blunt instrument	1	0
Firearms	1	0
Other weapons	3	2
Physical force	3	3
Sharp instrument	2	1
No weapon details recorded	30	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>21</b>

### Request 5 C

Whether anyone was hurt

### Answer 5 C

Please see table below outlining the victim injury as per the victim report for the years 2019 and 2020;

Injury	2019	2020
Minor	5	4
Threat	4	2
Missing/ Unknown	1	0
Not Applicable	7	4
None	23	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>21</b>

## Request 5 D

The number of people proceeded against in relation to these incidents, and the type of proceeding and outcome that took place (charge, caution, etc).

## Answer 5 D

Please see table below outlining the outcome assigned to recorded offences at pharmacies for 2019 and 2020;

Outcome Assigned	2019	2020
Charge/Summons	21	9
Caution	0	2
Evidential Difficulties	11	5
Investigation Complete – No Suspect Identified	6	4
Outcome not assigned	2	1
<b>Total</b>	40	21

**Please note that all of this information is based on data extracted from a live 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 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.psnipolice.uk](http://www.psnipolice.uk)

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