



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** FOI-2022-02618

**Keyword:** Organisational Information Arrests/Detainees/Outcomes

**Subject:** Custody Costs

### 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 some information to which your request relates and this is being provided to you. We do not however hold information in relation to requests number 1-3.

#### Request 1

How much it costs for an individual to spend up to 12 hours in custody.

#### Request 2

How much it costs for an individual to spend up to 24 hours in custody.

#### Request 3

Is there a daily rate? And for much longer stays, how much it is per day?

#### Answer 1-3

We can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) does not hold information in relation to requests 1-3. Enquiries made in relation to these requests failed to locate any records or documents based on the information you have provided.

However in order to assist you we can provide the following information. Based on 2020/2021 financial year figures it has been estimated that an average, initial 1st hour of detention in custody cost was £54.86 – with a subsequent charge of £36.59 per every next hour.

The PSNI does not hold the individual cost per detainee while being kept in a custody, as each detainee would have individual diverse needs. A number of factors would need to be considered: type of investigation being conducted, number of officers facilitated to assist, compliance of detainee, condition of detainee, number of medical examinations required, mental and physical health assessments and needs, observation requirements, use of external agencies, interpretation service etc. Also all accommodation related factors like heating, lightning, cell maintenance, all items needed by detainee, food requirements etc. Those figures are subject to change all year long. Between 01/04/21 to 31/03/22 PSNI Custodies accommodated 26,999 detainees.

#### Request 4

A copy of the breakfast/lunch/dinner/supper menu given to detainees.

#### Answer 4

The Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 states in point 8.6 – “At least two light meals and one main meal should be offered in any 24 hour period. See Note 8: Drinks should be provided at meal times and upon reasonable request between meals. Whenever necessary, advice shall be sought from the appropriate healthcare professional, see note 9AA, on medical and dietary matters.”

Please see current ambient menu served to detainees below.

Ambient Meals
All Day Breakfast
Vegetarian Breakfast
Vegetable Lasagne
Chicken Tikka Masala
Sweet & Sour Chicken
Beef Chilli Con Carne
Red Thai Curry
Beef Lasagne

Detainees are also offered tea, coffee and nutri bars.

At the minute custody suites are experiencing difficulties with the supply of ambient meals, due to Brexit and at times detainees are being supplied canteen food.

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 Corporate Information Manager, Corporate Information Branch, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing [foi@psni.police.uk](mailto:foi@psni.police.uk).

If, following an Internal Review carried out by an independent decision maker, you remain unhappy about how your request has been handled you have the right to apply in writing to the Information Commissioner, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, at 'Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. There are a number of other platforms you can use to contact the ICO and these can be found on the ICO's website at the following link: [Make a complaint | ICO \(https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/\)](https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/).

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.