



# FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2022-02746

**Keyword:** Crime/Incident Statistics Arrests/Detainees/Outcomes

**Subject:** Violent Disorder - Charge Statistics

**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 have also provided you with links to guidance issued by the Information Commissioner’s Office which we have followed in responding to your request.

**Request**

The number of charges made by your force under the HO Code 62A: Violent Disorder, for the following calendar years; 2022 to date, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017 and 2016.

**Answer**

Your request is seeking charges under Home Office code 62A Violent disorder, the home office classification is not held on PSNI systems. For the purposes of crime recording, PSNI Statistics Branch maintain an offence code table of all codes used for crime recording and allocate the equivalent Home office classification. Within this classification we have two offences: classified: Riot (4706001) and Riotous Behaviour (4706005)

In England & Wales the relevant legislation is the Public order Act 1986, which does not apply to NI. The NI legislation is the Public order NI 2017 and only the Riotous behaviour offence is listed under this legislation, ‘Riot’ appears to be under ‘Common Law’ legislation.

Please find in the table below details of the number of charges for offences of riot/riotous behaviour for time period from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of charges</b>
2016	12
2017	7
2018	18
2019	22
2020	25
2021	38
2022	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>128</b>

Please note; The figures provided are a count of charges, a person may be charged more than once for the same offence.

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.psnipolice.uk](http://www.psnipolice.uk)

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