



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: FOI-2023-00584

Keyword: Crime/Incident Statistics Arrests/Detainees/Outcomes

Subject: Excess Alcohol: Average Time Spent in Custody

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.

Request 1

We respectfully ride under the Freedom of Information Act for the police to confirm the average times spent in the custody suite prior to charge, for persons ultimately charged with driving with excess alcohol over the last three years.

Answer

The average time spent in custody suite prior to charge, for persons ultimately charged with driving with excess alcohol between 01 Feb 2020 and 01 Feb 2023 is **9.64 hours**.

Please mind, this data has been extracted from a live system based on below offence list:

CAUSING DEATH OR GBI BY DRIVING CARELESSLY WITH EXCESS ALCOHOL
DRIVING WITH EXCESS ALCOHOL IN BREATH
DRIVING WITH EXCESS ALCOHOL IN BLOOD
DRIVING WITH EXCESS ALCOHOL IN URINE
ATTEMPTING TO DRIVE WITH EXCESS ALCOHOL IN BREATH
FAIL TO PROVIDE SPECIMEN WHEN DRIVING WITH EXCESS ALCOHOL
CAUSING GRIEVOUS BODILY INJURY BY DRIVING CARELESSLY WITH EXCESS ALCOHOL
IN CHARGE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE WITH EXCESS ALCOHOL IN BLOOD
IN CHARGE WITH EXCESS ALCOHOL IN BREATH
IN CHARGE WITH EXCESS ALCOHOL IN URINE
FAILING TO PROVIDE SPECIMEN WHEN IN CHARGE WITH EXCESS ALCOHOL
ATTEMPTING TO DRIVE WITH EXCESS ALCOHOL IN BLOOD
ATTEMPTING TO DRIVE WITH EXCESS ALCOHOL IN URINE
FAIL TO PROVIDE SPECIMEN WHEN ATTEMPTING TO DRIVE WITH EXCESS ALCOHOL
CAUSING DEATH BY INCONSIDERATE DRIVING WITH EXCESS ALCOHOL
CAUSING GRIEVOUS BODILY INJURY BY INCONSIDERATE DRIVING WITH EXCESS ALCOHOL

Also note: a person can be detained for more than 1 offence and that may impact their time in custody.

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.

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

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