



# FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2023-00749

**Keyword:** Crime/Incident Statistics Drugs and Alcohol

**Subject:** Cannabis Cultivation Offences

**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 information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

**Request 1**

How many offences for cannabis cultivation did your force record in 2022?

**Request 2**

How many offences for cannabis cultivation did your force record in 2021?

**Request 3**

If you recorded the type of location where the offences took place (commercial premises vs individual homes), could you please also give me:

The number of cannabis cultivation offences on commercial premises in 2022?

**Request 4**

The number of cannabis cultivation offences on commercial premises in 2021?

**Answers 1-4**

Please see the information requested in the table below.

Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime guidance in relation to drug offences is to record one crime for each offender or group of offenders.

	2021	2022
<b>Cannabis Cultivation</b>	119	68
<b>Of Which MO Location 'Commercial'</b>	1	0

Please note in conjunction with the information the following:

- i. *PSNI has answered this request on the basis of police recorded crime figures as the request is for the number of cannabis cultivation offences recorded (Offence Code 4801007 Cultivating Cannabis)*

- ii. **Cannabis Cultivation Offences** - Changes can be expected to figures from 1st April 2022 as records are subject to ongoing validation and quality assurance processes until publication in May 2023; annual revisions to previously published financial year figures may also be applied at this time.
- iii. **Main MO location input as 'Commercial'** - This information is based on data extracted from a live recording 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 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.