



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2023-01197

Keyword: Crime/Incident Statistics Drugs and Alcohol

Subject: Average Time Spent in Custody Suite

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

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 one single charge of driving with driving with excess alcohol over the last three years.

Clarification to Requester

Although the data requested is held electronically by PSNI Statistics Branch, it is held collectively for both 'drink and drug driving'. Due to the PSNI recording system, to extract the data specifically for 'drink driving' would require a manual trawl of all records; this process is estimated to exceed the FOI legislative cost of 18 hours.

To assist in the processing of your request, PSNI may be able to provide the data collectively for 'drink and drug driving'.

Clarification received from Requester

I can confirm that I would be content to receive the information for both drink and drug driving at this stage for the requested period as per my letter attached for a single charge.

Follow up phone call advising that PSNI are now in a position to provide the full data set.

Answer

The average time spent in custody suite prior to charge, for persons ultimately charged with driving with excess alcohol between 1st January 2020 and 1st January 2023 is a total of 9.68 hours.

This information is based on data extracted from a live crime recording system based on the offence codes provided below and may be subject to change.

It should also be noted that 'a person can be detained for more than one offence and that may impact their time in custody'.

- Causing death or grievous bodily injury by driving carelessly with excess alcohol.
- Driving with excess alcohol in breath.
- Driving with excess alcohol in blood.
- Driving with excess alcohol in urine.
- Fail to provide specimen when driving with excess alcohol.
- Causing grievous bodily injury by driving carelessly with excess alcohol.
- Causing death by inconsiderate driving with excess alcohol.
- Causing grievous bodily injury by inconsiderate driving with excess alcohol.

Please also note that the data is not checked for reliability and validity and therefore for any data input into Niche PSNI cannot rule out the possibility of input errors which may have influenced these figures.

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.