



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2023-01651

Keyword: Crime/Incident Statistics Drugs and Alcohol

Subject: Drunk In A Public Place 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 does hold information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Request 1

As Section 91 of the Criminal Justice Act 1967 (Drunkenness in a Public Place) does not apply in Northern Ireland, could you instead provide the number of offences recorded under Article 10(1) of the Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 1980 (NI 6) (drunk in a public place)?

Clarification to Requester

PSNI can provide the number of arrests for the requested offence. However this offence is not included in the police recorded crime data set and so PSNI would be unable to provide the number of offences recorded.

Can you confirm if you are content with the number of arrests for the requested offence?

Clarification Received

I can confirm that the number of arrests for the requested offence (drunk in a public place) is satisfactory in place of the number of offences.

Answer

Simple drunk - Article 10(1) of the Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 1980 [A person who is drunk in any road or other public place, whether a building or not, shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine.....]

Disorderly behaviour - Article 18(1)(a) of the Public Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 [A person who in any public place uses disorderly behaviour shall be guilty of an offence]

Please note

A person may have been arrested and processed through custody for both disorderly behaviour and simple drunk offences.

A person may also have been arrested on more than one occasion for the same offence.

Arrests where a person has been arrested and processed through custody for at least one offence of simple drunk					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Simple Drunk	87	86	79	41	54

Arrests where a person has been arrested and processed through custody for at least one offence of disorderly behaviour					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Disorderly Behaviour	2,565	2,433	1,939	1,906	1,953

Request 2

If possible, please can you also provide the number of PCNs issued for the same offence (drunk in a public place) and for Disorderly Behaviour for the same years.

Clarification Received

By PCNs I was referring to Penalty Charge Notices, as they are known in England and Wales, but was not aware that the terminology was different in Northern Ireland. I believe Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) are the equivalent issued in Northern Ireland, so I would like to request data for the number of these issued for being "drunk in a public place" and for "disorderly behaviour", for each of the previously requested years.

Please could you provide this data, if available, for the following years: 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022

Answer

PNDs	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Disorderly Behaviour	673	486	344	318	312
Simple Drunk	45	38	42	42	40
Grand Total	718	524	386	360	352

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.psnipolice.uk

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