

**Request:**

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information.

I am after a yearly breakdown of the type of drug people have tested positive for in relation to drug-driving offences.

In particular, are you able to provide me with:

1. A breakdown of the total number of people who tested positive for each of the 16 drugs listed in section 5A of the Road Traffic Act 1988. Please could you provide a breakdown for the past five years, starting with March 2015 – February 2016, March 2016 – February 2017, March 2017 – February 2018, March 2018 – February 2019 and March 2019 – February 2020.

**Response:**

Your request for information has now been considered. Northamptonshire Police cannot supply the information you requested for the reasons set out below.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Northamptonshire Police, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt within the provisions of the Act) to provide you, the applicant, with a notice which:

- a) states the fact,
- b) specifies the exemption in question and
- c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies

In relation to your particular request, the following exemption applies:

Section 12 - Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit;

Section 12(1) of the FOIA provides an exemption from a public authority's obligation to comply with a request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the appropriate limit.

The information you are requesting in relation to the type of drug people have tested positive for in relation to drug-driving offences is not held by Northamptonshire Police in any reasonably retrievable form. The only means of establishing information of the nature you are requesting would be by way of manual examination of all arrests that were drug-driving offences.

In an emergency call **999**  
For non emergencies call **101**



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It is my assessment that the cost of providing you with the information requested would exceed the 'appropriate level' as set out in the Freedom of Information (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 which is currently £450 for 'prescribed costs'. It would cost 388 (number of records) x 5 minutes each (minimum) = over 32 hours at £25 per hour to respond to your request.

By way of explanation, every effort is made to ensure that responses to Freedom of Information requests provide accurate and complete data. Unfortunately, in relation to this request, our data is not organised in such a way as to allow us to provide this information. The information about the type of drug that a person tested positive for is not recorded in a mandatory field and we are also unable to search the crime investigation screens/additional information screens, therefore this request would require a manual search of each detention record.

Due to a change in systems, data is only available from March 2016, between March 2016 and February 2020, there were 388 arrests made relating to Drug Driving. To respond to your request would mean a manual search of all detention logs on a persons record.

In view of the above, and in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please take this letter as a Refusal Notice.

You may wish to refine and resubmit your request so that it reduces the costs shown above and is then within the 'appropriate limit' shown above. This may be by reducing the time scales, or selecting a sample range for each year; if you would like some further information about how to proceed with your request then please contact [FreedomofInformation@northants.pnn.police.uk](mailto:FreedomofInformation@northants.pnn.police.uk)

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