



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2008-04650

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** PROSECUTIONS FOR MATRICIDE

### Request:

**I would like to know how many people have been prosecuted for the crime of Matricide, or the killing of ones mother, in the last thirty years.**

### Answer:

Central Statistics Branch of the Police Service of Northern Ireland have advised that to be able provide an answer to your request would require a manual trawl through murder records held on a crime recording system which is no longer used but is still accessible and a further a variety of ways (individual forms, murder books, subsequent versions of crime recording systems). It is necessary to trawl these to look for relationship information or details of the murder, which may help to identify a relationship, as this may not have been specified when registered. Trawling through some 1200 records for 1987 to 2007/08 at an average of 2 minutes per record would take well in excess of the time permitted to locate and provide the information as set down in FOI legislation

Due to the factors above the cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information Regulations 2004, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice, and the request has therefore been closed.

You may wish to submit a refined request in order that the cost of complying with your request may be facilitated within the ‘appropriate limit’. Submission of a refined request would be treated as a new request, and considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, including consideration of relevant Part II exemptions.

Under Section 16 of the Act we have a duty to provide advice and assistance and should you consider submitting a refined request I can advise that to keep cost within the £450 ceiling the Police Service of Northern Ireland can supply the information below –

We could examine murders over the last 15 years (1993 to 2007/08) and identify the number of murders where relationship details are provided which indicate mother (as victim) and son/daughter (as suspect/accused).

It should be noted that we cannot provide details on prosecution.

If you have any queries regarding your request or this decision please do not hesitate to contact me on 028 9070 0164. When contacting the Freedom of Information Team, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this email.

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 Head of Freedom of Information, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing [foi@psni.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@psni.pnn.police.uk).

If following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision maker, you were to remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request you may make a complaint, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the PSNI has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. You can write to the Information Commissioner at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. 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 his discretion.

Please be advised that all PSNI replies under Freedom of Information will be released simultaneously 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.