



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2008-03692

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Questions regarding Sex Offenders

Request:

Q1. As of Monday 7 July 2008, how many registered sex offenders were there in Northern Ireland?

Q2. Of those on the Sex Offenders Register, how many are located in each individual district / separated jurisdiction / council area of Northern Ireland?

Q3. Of those registered in each area, what sentences are they serving and how long will they remain on the register?

Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested and the answers to your questions are as follows

Answer 1

As of Monday 7th July 2008 there were 793 registered sex offenders in Northern Ireland

Answer 2

For your information the numbers of Registered Sex Offenders (RSOs) living within force jurisdiction by District Command Unit are published annually, usually October, within the MASRAM annual reports. As the information is intended for future publication this is exempt under s22 - Information intended for future publication.

Under s16 of the act we have a duty to assist and for your information I have provided a link to the 2007 MASRAM annual report www.psnipolice.uk/nisosmcreport07final.pdf

The information provided in this report is the lowest area that statistical RSO data is released.

Lower level data relating to RSOs below DCU command area would not be disclosed as disclosure would lead to the identification of an individual, undermine an individual's right to a private life; may contravene any reporting restrictions imposed following judicial proceedings; compromise law enforcement and jeopardise the safety of an individual. Consequently, the following exemptions would be engaged with regard to this information – Section 40(2) (Personal information); Section 44(1)(a) Prohibitions on Disclosure; Section 31(1) Law Enforcement; Section 30(1)(2) Investigations and Section 38(1) Health and Safety.

Answer 3

To provide an answer with regard to this question would require someone to check the criminal records of each individual registered sex offender and the cost of confirming if the information is held, locating and retrieving the information would exceed the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. It is estimated that it would cost more than £450 to comply with this part of your request.

As with the answer to Question 2 above if the information was retrievable it would be subject to the exemptions mentioned.

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 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.

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.

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