



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2008-03900

Keyword: Crime

Subject: VICTIMS OF WEAPONS OFFENCES 2002/8

Request:

The number of victims, aged 18 or under, for all weapons offences for the financial years 02-03, 03-04, 04-05, 05-06, 06-07 and 07-08. Please break down according to whether aged 16 or under, or aged 17-18.

Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full.

The PSNI's Central Statistics Unit have supplied the number of offences for each financial year where a weapon was involved in the incident, by financial year and age of of victim banded by 16 and under , and 17-18. We advised you that Central Statistics Unit do not record how a weapon will have been used in an incident and you indicated that this was acceptable and to proceed with the rest of your request.

Please refer to attached document 0000001572pdf - Appendix A.

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.psnipolice.uk.

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

Recorded offences where a weapon¹ was used in the incident and victim is aged 18 years or under

Northern Ireland

	All ages	16 and under	17-18
2002/03	4,049	280	254
2003/04	6354	373	283
2004/05	5,440	306	235
2005/06	5,313	284	227
2006/07	4,851	246	215
2007/08 ²	9,251	561	392

Source: Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

¹ The figures relate to crimes where a weapon was involved in the incident – it is not known how a weapon was actually used.

² The system which was used for crime recording from the start of 2001/02 (ICIS) was replaced by a new system on 1st April 2007 (NICHE). Modus Operandi (MO) information is used to identify incidents where a weapon is involved. On ICIS, MO information is available at the level of individual offences. However on NICHE, MO is only available at occurrence level (an occurrence might not contain any crimes, or it may contain one or more than one crime). Therefore if an MO of weapon used is contained within an occurrence on NICHE, all offences within that occurrence will be regarded as having a weapon involved. This may lead to some inflation of offence levels from the NICHE system.

Please note that these figures are provisional and may be subject to revision