



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2008-05514

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: MISSING PERSONS REPORTS

Request:

Question 1 - How many missing person reports did your force receive in the 2007/2008 financial year?

Question 2 - How many of these reports, referred to in question one, relate to a young person missing from a care home?

Question 3 - How many of these young people, referred to in question two, have been reported missing to the force at least once before?

Answer:

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. However, the Police Service of Northern Ireland has been able to provide the information to questions 1 and 2 within the appropriate fees limit.

Answer 1 - During the period 1st April 2007 to 31st March 2008 a total of 4956 incident records had the classification of "Missing Persons".

Answer 2 - Of the 4,956 reports, 616 had an address classification of "Children's Home".

Answer 3 - To provide the information requested in this question, would require a member of staff to manually trawl through the 616 reports which places the request over the appropriate fees level. It has been estimated that it would take approximately a further 102 hours to complete the trawl which far exceeds the appropriate fees level of £450 (18 hours) as set by the Secretary of State.

The PSNI have also considered whether we can be of any assistance in terms of helping you refine question 3 to bring it under the cost limit, however, the nature of the information requested unfortunately makes this impossible.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice in relation to question 3.

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

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 PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ <http://www.psni.police.uk/>

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