



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2008-03847

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: PUBLIC PROTECTION UNITS

Request:

- 1 - Please provide a copy of your PPU (Public Protection Unit) standard operating procedures.
- 2 - According to your standard operating procedures what is the minimum number of home visits per year for very high risk registered sex offenders?
- 3 - According to your standard operating procedures what is the minimum number of home visits per year for high risk registered sex offenders?
- 4 - According to your standard operating procedures what is the minimum number of home visits per year for medium risk registered sex offenders?
- 5 - According to your standard operating procedures what is the minimum number of home visits per year for low risk registered sex offenders?
- 6 - In your area, how many registered sex offenders are in the very high risk group?
- 7 - In your area, how many registered sex offenders are in the high risk group?
- 8 - In your area, how many registered sex offenders are in the medium risk group?
- 9 - In your area, how many registered sex offenders are in the low risk group?
- 10 - In the last 12 months how many home visits have been conducted in which contact WAS made with the offender?
- 11 - In the last 12 months how many home visits have been conducted in which contact was NOT made with the offender?

Answer:

I am writing to confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information.

The system in Northern Ireland is not the same as that which operates in the rest of the United Kingdom. Where England, Wales and Scotland operate what are known as MAPPA, in Northern Ireland the system or process is called MASRAM (Multi-Agency Sex Offender Risk Assessment and Risk Management).

The primary purpose of the MASRAM arrangements is to reduce offenders' opportunity and/or inclination to re-offend.

The criminal justice agencies and others who operate those arrangements manage the risk posed by sex offenders rather than the offenders themselves. There is an important and significant difference.

Every sex offender is an individual who presents a different set of risk factors. It is vital that this is recognised because it allows the development of individual risk management plans which are specifically targeted at the risk factors identified. No two risk management plans will therefore be the same as the actions outlined in every plan will be in accordance with the risks posed by the individual concerned. For this reason it would be wrong to be prescriptive in relation to the risk management actions in plans both in terms of their type and frequency.

I can inform you that the New Procedural guidance is at an advanced stage in preparation for the new Public Protection Arrangements Northern Ireland (PPANI) which come into force on 1st October 2008. The manual of practice will be ready for release following final approval by the Northern Ireland Sex Offender Strategic Management Committee (NISOSMC) and in any event prior to 1/10/08.

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.