



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2009-02202

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** CHILDREN & CRIME

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

How many crimes were committed in your area where the offender was aged under 10 in each of the past 5 years? Please provide a breakdown of these offences showing the nature of the crime and the age of the offender if available.

#### Answer

*Searches were conducted however these searches failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request before 1 April 2007. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland only holds the information to which you seek access from 1 April 2007, therefore the answers to your questions are as follows:*

Please see attached document.

#### Question 2

How many children under the age of 10 were found to be in possession of illegal drugs in each of the past 5 years?

#### Answer

No children under 10 were found in possession of illegal drugs between 1st April 2007 - 31st March 2009.

#### Question 3

The number of children aged 15 and under a) suspected of supplying drugs and b) convicted in each of the past 5 years broken down if available by class of drug supplied and the age of the child.

#### Answer

2 young people under the age of 15 years were suspected of supplying illegal drugs between 1st April 2007 - 31st March 2009.

Year 07/08 – one 13 year-old received a Restorative Caution for possession/supplying cannabis.

Year 08/09 – one 13 year-old suspected of supplying Class A & Class C drugs which it transpired were fake.

#### Question 4

The number of children aged a) 15 and under and b) 9 and under who were suspected of committing a sexual offence in each of the past 5 years.

#### Answer

The number of children aged between 0-9 who were suspected of committing a sexual offence 01 April 2007 - 31 March 2008 was 6.

The number of children aged between 0-9 who were suspected of committing a sexual offence 01 April 2008 - 31 March 2009 was 6.

The number of children aged between 10-15 who were suspected of committing a sexual offence 01 April 2007 - 31

March 2008 was 113.

The number of children aged between 10-15 who were suspected of committing a sexual offence 01 April 2008 - 31 March 2009 was 119.

#### Question 5

The number of sexual offences committed against children a) 15 years old and under and b) 9 years old and under.

#### Answer

The number of children aged between 0-9 who were suspected victims of sex offences 01 April 2007 - 31 March 2008 was 25.

The number of children aged between 0-9 who were suspected victims of sex offences 01 April 2008 - 31 March 2009 was 15.

The number of children aged between 10-15 who were suspected victims of sex offences 01 April 2007 - 31 March 2008 was 105.

The number of children aged between 10-15 who were suspected victims of sex offences 01 April 2008 - 31 March 2009 was 78.

#### Question 6

The number of children a) 15 years old and under and b) 9 years old and under found in possession of knives, blades or firearms in each of the past 5 years broken down by type of weapon.

#### Answer

Please see tables below in relation to the number of children found in possession of knives, blades or firearms by age from 1st April 2007 - 31st March 2009.

a)

| AGE      | 1/04/07-31/3/08 | 1/04/08-31/3/09 |
|----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 10 years | 2               | 2               |
| 11 years | 3               | 4               |
| 12 years | 6               | 5               |
| 13 years | 16              | 21              |
| 14 years | 22              | 37              |
| 15 years | 40              | 60              |

b)

| AGE     | 1/04/07-31/3/08 | 1/04/08-31/3/09 |
|---------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 9 years | 1               | 0               |
| 8 years | 1               | 0               |
| 7 years | 0               | 0               |
| 6 years | 0               | 0               |
| 5 years | 0               | 0               |
| 4 years | 0               | 0               |

Please note that where figures are supplied for calendar years 2007, 2008 and 2009 the statistics are provided up to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009.

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](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 PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released 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.

## Crime involving Children Under 10

Year: 2007

| Age                             | Offence Type         | Number of Children |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 4                               | Criminal Damage      | 4                  |
|                                 | Sexual Offences      | 1                  |
| 5                               | Alcohol Related      | 2                  |
|                                 | Common Assault       | 1                  |
|                                 | Criminal Damage      | 8                  |
| 6                               | Alcohol Related      | 2                  |
|                                 | Common Assault       | 1                  |
|                                 | Criminal Damage      | 2                  |
| 7                               | Common Assault       | 4                  |
|                                 | Criminal Damage      | 10                 |
|                                 | Hoax Calls           | 1                  |
|                                 | Sexual Offences      | 1                  |
|                                 | Theft                | 3                  |
| 8                               | AOABH                | 1                  |
|                                 | Common Assault       | 6                  |
|                                 | Criminal Damage      | 6                  |
|                                 | Offensive Weapon     | 1                  |
|                                 | Public Order Related | 1                  |
|                                 | Sexual Offences      | 2                  |
|                                 | Theft                | 8                  |
| 9                               | Burglary             | 2                  |
|                                 | Common Assault       | 16                 |
|                                 | Criminal Damage      | 9                  |
|                                 | Offensive Weapon     | 1                  |
|                                 | Public Order Related | 4                  |
|                                 | Theft                | 12                 |
| <b>Total number of children</b> |                      | <b>109</b>         |

## Crime involving Children Under 10

Year: 2008

| Age                             | Offence Type         | Number of Children |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 4                               | Sexual Offences      | 1                  |
|                                 | Theft                | 1                  |
|                                 | Threats to Kill      | 1                  |
| 5                               | Criminal Damage      | 3                  |
|                                 | Hoax Calls           | 3                  |
|                                 | Theft                | 1                  |
| 6                               | Common Assault       | 2                  |
|                                 | Criminal Damage      | 3                  |
|                                 | Hoax Calls           | 1                  |
|                                 | Sexual Offences      | 1                  |
|                                 | Theft                | 3                  |
| 7                               | Common Assault       | 4                  |
|                                 | Criminal Damage      | 4                  |
|                                 | Hoax Calls           | 1                  |
|                                 | Motoring             | 1                  |
|                                 | Sexual Offences      | 1                  |
|                                 | Theft                | 4                  |
| 8                               | Arson                | 3                  |
|                                 | Common Assault       | 4                  |
|                                 | Criminal Damage      | 11                 |
|                                 | GBH                  | 4                  |
|                                 | Sexual Offences      | 1                  |
|                                 | Theft                | 6                  |
| 9                               | Alcohol Related      | 2                  |
|                                 | Common Assault       | 11                 |
|                                 | Criminal Damage      | 8                  |
|                                 | Disorderly Behaviour | 1                  |
|                                 | Hoax Calls           | 1                  |
|                                 | Motoring             | 1                  |
|                                 | Sexual Offences      | 2                  |
|                                 | Theft                | 7                  |
| <b>Total number of children</b> |                      | <b>97</b>          |

## Crime involving Children Under 10

Year: 2009

| Age                             | Offence Type         | Number of Children |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 7                               | Theft                | 2                  |
| 8                               | Disorderly Behaviour | 1                  |
|                                 | Public Order Related | 1                  |
| 9                               | Common Assault       | 1                  |
|                                 | Criminal Damage      | 1                  |
|                                 | Theft                | 2                  |
| <b>Total number of children</b> |                      | <b>8</b>           |