



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-02347

Keyword: Crime

Subject: CHILDREN INVOLVED IN RAPE OR SEXUAL OFFENCES

Request and Answer:

Question 1

I should be most grateful if you could provide me with the figures of the number of children (clarified as children 10 years old and above) against whom the PSNI have brought charges of rape or sexual offences, including a breakdown by age and gender. Furthermore, if the response could determine whether this figure includes or excludes consensual underage sex.

Answer

Please see attached chart & graph. These figures include consensual underage sex.

Question 2

What is the procedure for dealing with children under 10 who are below the age of criminal responsibility?

Answer

Co-operating to Safeguard Children (DHSSPS 2003) requires a co-ordinated approach on the part of all the relevant agencies, including police, in relation to all children, including those under 10, who display sexually harmful behaviours. The Police Service of Northern Ireland recognises that a child of any age who displays such behaviour is themselves a child in need of both services, and care and control. As per the "Protocol for Joint Investigation by Social Workers and Police Officers" this will include conducting an initial assessment, liaising with the family and other key professionals, to ascertain the child's needs for support and intervention.

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 letter.

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 @ www.psnipolice.uk

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

Supsected Offenders of Sex Offences

Date Range : 01 April 2007 - 31 March 2009

10 to 17 Years Old

Age	Male	Female
10	8	0
11	9	3
12	15	3
13	28	10
14	56	20
15	62	18
16	114	14
17	89	5

