



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-00018
Keyword: Crime
Subject: CRIME STATISTICS 2007/8

Request and Answer:

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

I have today decided to:

- disclose records in answer to Questions 2 and 3 in full; and
- fully exempt records in answer to Question 1 pursuant to the provisions of Section 21 of the Act.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- a) States the fact
- b) Specifies the exemption in question &
- c) States (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies

Question 1

Overall, how many crimes were committed in a) 2007 and b) 2008?

Answer

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 it has been decided to refuse access to the information you have requested. Section 21 of the Act provides that information, which is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means, is exempt information.

The information you have requested is available from the Police Service of Northern Ireland's Publication Scheme. To access our Publication Scheme please visit our website at

http://www.psni.police.uk/index/pg_freedom_of_information.htm. More specifically, the statistics can be found by clicking on the following links;

http://www.psni.police.uk/1_recorded_crime-2.pdf - Statistics for the 2007/08 financial year

http://www.psni.police.uk/monthly_crime_statistics_april_to_june_2008-09_.pdf - Statistics for the period April '07 - November '08 which are the most up to date available.

http://www.psni.police.uk/index/statistics_branch/crime_statistics_archive.htm - Statistics up to and including the 2006/07 financial year.

Question 2

Of crimes committed in **2007**, how many of the offenders were a) under 10? b) under 16 and c) under 18?

Answer

In relation your use of the term "offender", crimes committed in any year may not be concluded until subsequent years,

therefore it is difficult to assign a *convicted* offender to any crime figure. What I have provided is figures for arrested persons against recorded crimes. Note that the figure for under 18s will (clearly) include under 16s and under 10s. Under 16s will likewise include under 10s. Also, that we have interpreted under 18/16/10 as being just that, i.e. 17 and under/15 and under/9 and under.

Number of under 18s arrested: 4580

Number of under 16s arrested: 1846

Number of under 10s arrested: 1

Question 3

Of crimes committed in **2008**, how many of the offenders were a) under 10? b) under 16 and c) under 18?

Answer

In relation your use of the term "offender", crimes committed in any year may not be concluded until subsequent years, therefore it is difficult to assign a *convicted* offender to any crime figure. What I have provided is figures for arrested persons against recorded crimes. Note that the figure for under 18s will (clearly) include under 16s and under 10s. Under 16s will likewise include under 10s. Also, that we have interpreted under 18/16/10 as being just that, i.e. 17 and under/15 and under/9 and under.

Number of under 18s arrested: 4442

Number of under 16s arrested: 1646

Number of under 10s arrested: 1

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 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.