



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2009-03519

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** CRIMES COMMITTED BY CHILDREN AGED 15 AND UNDER

### Request and Answer:

#### Question

How many offences have been committed by (a) male and (b) female children aged i) under 10 ii) 10, iii) 11, vi) 12, v) 13, vi) 14 and vii) 15 in your police force area. I would like this information broken down in the following offence categories (a) violence against the person; (b) sexual offences; (c) burglary; (d) robbery; (e) theft and handling stolen goods; (f) fraud and forgery; (g) criminal damage; (h) drug offences (i) other.

I would like this information for each financial year since 2004.

#### Answer

Initially I contacted all Districts within PSNI to establish if they held the information requested and they estimated the amount of time it would take to retrieve any relevant information. Due to the volume of files held within the districts and the amount of time required to check each file 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.

Community Safety Branch however advised that in June 2006 an evaluation of the Youth Diversion Scheme was carried out by ASM Howarth and a new database was developed to input referrals when received by the Youth Diversion Officers throughout the PSNI. Community Safety Branch maintain this system and because of this they are able to provide, within cost, statistics from 1 July 2007 which can be found below.

These statistics are recorded by our Community Safety Branch for **internal use** only and for this reason the PSNI response to this part of your request is unique and should not be used as a comparison with any other Force response you receive.

For your information under the Disposal of Documents Schedule, when offence records reach their review dates, depending on the type of offence/disposal, they are flagged up on the database for deletion. This in effect means that after 2 ½ years any offences disposed of by way of informed warning, caution or youth conference will have been 'spent' and can no longer be held on record, unless we can demonstrate a policing purpose for retaining the record further, e.g. further offending or at risk behaviour.

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](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.

01/04/08-31/03/09

	Violence	Sexual	Burglary	Robbery	Theft	C/Damage	Drugs	Other
<10	22	1	0	0	9	10	0	5
10	30	5	8	0	22	30	0	9
11	92	4	18	0	50	55	1	34
12	168	8	24	2	103	94	4	61
13	291	21	51	4	189	188	19	149
14	366	33	81	6	311	228	23	333
15	432	43	112	7	344	280	60	531

01/07/07-31/03/08 Figures only available from 1<sup>st</sup> July '07

	Violence	Sexual	Burglary	Robbery	Theft	C/Damage	Drugs	Other
<10	12	0	0	0	7	17	0	2
10	22	3	6	0	17	34	0	9
11	28	5	5	0	39	45	1	16
12	99	7	11	1	92	80	4	36
13	142	20	32	1	163	128	3	121
14	249	47	53	4	241	214	12	195
15	296	40	106	4	252	234	34	438

Violence includes Assault on Police, AOABH, GBH and Common Assault.  
 No figures for Fraud.  
 No breakdown re gender.