



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-03196

Keyword: Crime

Subject: FEMALES ON SEX OFFENDERS REGISTER

Request and Answer:

Question 1

We are trying to establish the number of female offenders who are currently on the sex offenders register for offences committed against children under the age of 16.

Answer

3 females are currently on the sex offenders register for offences against children under the age of 16.

Question 2

How many arrests have there been in the last 12 months involving females who have been involved in the taking and distribution of indecent images of children under the age of 16?

Answer

No arrests have been made in the last 12 months involving females in relation to the taking and distribution of indecent images of children under the age of 16?

Question 3

How many arrests have there been in the last 12 months of females involved in sexual offences against children under the age of 16?

Answer

Two arrests have been made in the last 12 months involving females in relation to sexual offences against children under the age of 16

The PSNI can neither confirm nor deny it holds any further information in relation to Operation Ore investigations it may or may not have conducted, which have not subsequently been placed in the public domain. I can, however, advise you, as required by Section 17 of the Act that such information if it were to exist, would be reasonably expected to be exempted under;

Section 23(5) Information supplied by, or concerning, certain Security Bodies
Section 30(3) Investigations and Proceedings conducted by Public Authorities

Before refusing to comply with the provisions of Section 1(1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act, the PSNI also has to analyse any public interest factors in neither confirming nor denying that information is or is not held if any of the exemptions cited are qualified in nature. Section 30 is a qualified exemption, and so the following public interest factors are relevant.

Section 30

Favouring confirmation or denial

Confirming the existence or non existence of information would show what investigations the PSNI have or have not conducted in relation to Operation Ore.

Against confirmation or denial

An investigation in relation to Operation Ore could be compromised.

Balance of Public Interest

At this time the potential harm to past, current and future investigations outweighs any public benefit in knowing if any additional information is, or is not held. There is no further tangible community benefit in complying with section 1(1) (a) of the Act at this time.

This response should not be taken as an inference that the PSNI does, or does not hold any further information in relation to your request.

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 @ www.psni.police.uk

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