



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-00104

Keyword: Crime

Subject: MALE RAPES REPORTED SINCE 2004

Request and Answer:

I am writing to confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information and the answers to your questions are as follows.

Question 1

I would like to know how many male rapes have been reported annually since 2004. Please also provide a breakdown by district of where these crimes have happened e.g. 3 in Belfast North, for example.

Answer 1

The Police Service of Northern Ireland Central Statistics Unit have provided the attached document which illustrates the number of recorded rape offences (including attempts) where the victim is male by calendar year and policing area from 2004.

Question 2

Does the PSNI believe any of these to be linked?

Answer 2

Question 2 of your request takes the form of a question, which is seeking a member of the Service to express an opinion regarding whether any males rapes reported since 2004 are linked, and as such this is not a valid request for recorded information held by the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

However I can also advise that the Rape Crime Units, C.2. were established on 1st April 2008 and since that date; these units deal with all serious adult sexual offences. Prior to that date and during the period in question, the investigation of sexual offences was spread across different parts of the organisation. Accordingly any information that may assist with determining whether any cases are linked is not held centrally.

Up to the 1st April 2008, male rape was investigated by either the CARE unit or CID depending upon whether the allegation was classified as an association rape where the identity of the suspect was known, or a stranger attack.

The method to gather the information requested regarding question 2 would involve

* Reviewing each relevant investigation file undertaken by what used to be the CARE unit's during the period 2004-2008

* Reviewing each relevant investigation file undertaken in each district that was investigated by CID during the period 2004-2008

and to carry this out would take well in excess of the time permitted within the legislation and because of this 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.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland have also considered whether we can be of any assistance in terms of helping you refine your request to bring it under the cost limit however because it is necessary to contact all districts and the nature and structure of the information unfortunately makes this impossible.

Question 3

And how many male rapes does the PSNI estimate go unreported each year?

Answer 3

This question request takes the form of a question, which is seeking a member of the Service to express an opinion regarding how many male rapes the PSNI estimate go unreported each year, and as such this is not a valid request for recorded information held by the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

Question 4

Have any of the rapes reported been gang rapes?

Answer 4

The Rape Crime Unit has advised that gang rape is not a legal term and to ascertain if more than one person was involved in any of the reported rapes would as mentioned in the response to question 2 above take well in excess of the time permitted within the legislation and because of this 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.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland have also considered whether we can be of any assistance in terms of helping you refine your request to bring it under the cost limit however because it is necessary to contact all districts and the nature and structure of the information unfortunately makes this impossible.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice in relation to question 2 and 3 and this has therefore been closed.

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.

**Recorded Rape offences (including attempts) where the victim is male
by calendar year and policing area**

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 ¹
Antrim	0	1	2	2	0
Ards	0	1	1	2	1
Armagh	0	0	1	1	0
Ballymena	0	2	3	0	1
Ballymoney	0	2	1	0	0
Banbridge	1	0	0	0	0
Carrickfergus	0	0	0	0	0
Castlereagh	0	0	2	1	1
Coleraine	0	2	2	1	3
Cookstown	0	0	1	0	0
Craigavon	0	1	1	4	0
Down	1	2	1	0	3
Dungannon & South Tyrone	0	0	0	0	0
East Belfast	1	2	1	1	0
Fermanagh	0	0	0	2	5
Foyle	0	1	5	6	5
Larne	0	0	1	0	0
Limavady	0	2	0	1	0
Lisburn	0	1	1	0	0
Magherafelt	1	1	2	0	0
Moyle	1	1	0	0	1
Newry & Mourne	0	2	0	1	1
Newtownabbey	0	3	3	1	0
North Belfast	3	2	3	5	3
North Down	0	0	1	1	2
Omagh	0	2	2	1	0
South Belfast	2	2	7	3	1
Strabane	1	0	0	0	2
West Belfast	1	2	3	0	1
Northern Ireland	12	32	44	33	30

Source: Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

¹ Figures for 2008 include information taken from the current financial year, 2008/09, which is provisional and will be subject to change.