



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2009-03232

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** RAPE INVESTIGATIONS

### Request and Answer:

#### Question

How many criminal cases involving rape within the last five years, in which figures are available, have resulted in no prosecution because of administrative error which fall into any of the following categories:

1. Was investigated by the police but was investigated inadequately.
2. Evidence lost or temporally mislead.
3. Were Police may claim they did not get the complaint or that the complaint hadn't been passed on to the right department.
4. Was investigated but the case did not merit forwarding to the Prosecution Service.

#### Answer

The cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the "appropriate limit" as stated in the Freedom of Information (Appropriate Limit and Fees) 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 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, and the request has therefore been closed.

For your information the Rape Crime Unit (RCU) was formed in February 2008 and are responsible for the investigation of adult rape and all stranger rapes. Also at this time Public Protection Teams were formed within Districts and are responsible for the investigation of rapes of children.

In the past year the RCU have investigated over 300 rape offences within 3 offices and without looking at and reviewing each case it would be impossible to answer the questions asked especially over the period of 5 years.

If you have any queries regarding your request or this 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](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 @ <http://www.psni.police.uk/>

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