



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-01867

Keyword: Crime

Subject: RAPES 2007 / 8

Request and Answer:

Question 1

How many rapes / claims of rape were reported to your force in the April 2007 to April 2008 period?

Question 2

How many of those reported were listed as "no crime having taken place?"

Answer

Please find attached document containing the total number of rapes including attempts for the 2007/08 financial year and the number of those reported in the 2007/08 financial year that have since been deemed as no crime.

As mentioned in the answers below to questions 3 and 4 we do not hold the information regarding prosecutions however for your information we have also provided the total number of offences that have since been cleared.

Clearances (or detections as they may alternatively be known) are, broadly speaking, those crimes that have been 'cleared up' by the police. Crimes are counted as 'cleared or detected' in accordance with strict counting rules issued by the Home Office. They are counted on the basis of crimes rather than offenders. For example, if six offenders are involved in a robbery and are all arrested and charged, then this counts as one clearance (i.e. the robbery is deemed to be 'cleared'). Alternatively if only one of the six is identified and charged while the other five remain unidentified and at large, this also means that the robbery can still be deemed as 'cleared'.

The following methods of clearance involve a formal sanction:

- Charging or issuing a summons to an offender;
- Issuing a caution to the offender;
- Having the offence accepted for consideration in court;
- The offender is a juvenile who is dealt with by means of an informed warning, restorative caution or prosecutorial diversion.

In addition, for the most serious offence types ('indictable only' – those more serious crimes which are tried on indictment in the Crown Court by a judge and jury) a non sanction clearance can be claimed if:

- The Public Prosecution Service (PPS) directs no prosecution; or
- The case cannot proceed because the offender has died.

'No Crimed' offence figures are not included in the total recorded rape figure.

Question 3

How many were actually prosecuted?

Answer

The Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access. Please be advised that

enquiries have been made and The Public Prosecution Service may hold the information you require. Please find attached website link <http://www.ppsni.gov.uk/site/default.asp>

Question 4

How many prosecutions ultimately ended in a conviction? (for accuracy - if possible - please do also state if any cases being taken to prosecution are yet to be disposed of).

Answer

The Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access. Please be advised that enquiries have been made and The Public Prosecution Service may hold the information you require. Please find attached website link <http://www.ppsni.gov.uk/site/default.asp>

Question 5

If applicable to your force...of the cases prosecuted.... how many had a Specially Trained Officer (STO) assigned from start to finish as recommended (recommendation 7 - p97) by the HMPCSI and HMCI Thematic report: Without Consent? Please state the percentage of successful prosecutions, which had such an officer and the number of unsuccessful prosecutions, which had such an officer.

Answer

During the period in question no investigation into an allegation of rape had a Specially Trained Officer assigned to the case. The PSNI does not have Specially Trained Officers.

In April 2008 following restructure in the PSNI, the Rape Crime Unit (RCU), as part of Serious Crime Branch was established. The sole remit of the RCU is to investigate rape and serious sexual assault committed against adults and, rape of a child by a stranger.

All police personnel attached to the RCU are Detective's who specialise in the investigation of rape and serious sexual assault.

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.ppsni.police.uk/>

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

Recorded rape offences (including attempts)

2007/08

Northern Ireland

	Recorded rape (incl. attempts) offences	Of those rape offences recorded, the total number that have since been cleared ¹	Rape offences initially recorded but reclassified as 'No Crime' ²
Number	420	64	5

Source: Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

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