



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2009-00166

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** SEX ABUSE CASES WITHIN THE HOME

### Request and Answer:

I am writing to confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information requested and the answers to your questions are provided below -

#### Question 1

Number of sex abuse cases within the home police investigated last year, from January 1st 2008 to December 31st 2008 (i.e. parents abusing their children).

#### Question 2

List of age of children involved? If you can't the youngest age of victim sexually abused would be fine.

#### Question 3

List of offences suspected? i.e. rape etc?

#### Question 4

How many of these resulted in arrests? Please state if you can whether it was the mother or father.

#### Question 5

How many investigations resulted in charges?

### Answer

On receipt of your request I initially contacted our Central Statistics Unit to ascertain if they were able to provide answers to the questions but was advised that they do not hold any information on police investigations and would only hold information on recorded crime.

I also contacted our Criminal Justice Department as this department contains the Public Protection Branch however was advised that information which may assist in answering your request is not held centrally and I would need to contact the Public Protection Units in each district.

The Public Protection Units advised that the information requested is not recorded on statistics centrally in respect of the breakdown requested and to retrieve any information would require a manual trawl of all referrals to the units to firstly identify which referrals relate to sexual abuse, identify where the abuse occurred, research all of the relevant offences and finally confirm the perpetrator status in respect of parent/step parent etc. 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, and the request has therefore been closed.

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.