



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2009-03954

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Registered Sex Offenders

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

The number of registered sex offenders within the area that your force covers.

#### Answer

There are currently 910 registered sex offenders.

#### Question 2

The amount of these which are classed as "on the run", therefore have not kept to the requirements ordered alongside being put on the register whilst in court.

#### Answer

There are currently 4 registered sex offenders who have breached the terms and conditions of the supervision order.

#### Question 3

And if possible I would like to know out of these registered sex offenders how many were put on the list after committing sex crimes against under 16's - therefore classing them as paedophiles.

#### Answer

Searches were conducted however these searches failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided. The PSNI do not classify persons in this way. They are classified by category of risk or serious harm, either Category 1, 2 or 3. There has never been an operational need to provide this information and therefore it is not recorded in this format.

In historic abuse cases the victim's age at the time of reporting the offence would be recorded and **not** their age at the time of the offence. Consensual Sexual Intercourse between an 18 year old male and his 16 year old girlfriend does not make him a paedophile, yet depending on the sentence it may make him a registered sex offender. Therefore, if a sexual act is committed against an individual under 16 years old, the offender is not automatically categorised as a paedophile.

However, if this information were recorded, the process required to identify a specific type of offender and retrieve the 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 following link to the Public Protection website publishes PPANI reports in relation to Registered Sex Offenders, which you may find useful: <http://www.publicprotectionni.com/>

Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

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 @ [www.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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