



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-01216

Keyword: Crime

Subject: SEXUAL ASSAULT INVESTIGATIONS

Request and Answer:

Question 1

Do you have a specialist unit for investigating rape and sexual assault where the victims are adults?

Answer 1

Yes, the PSNI have two specialist units.

1. The Rape Crime Unit (RCU). The remit of RCU is to investigate rape and serious sexual assault committed against adults.
2. The Child Abuse Investigation Unit (CAIU) investigates allegations made by an adult of serious sexual assault, including rape, which occurred when the victim was under 18 years of age.

Question 2

How many detectives work in this specialist unit?

Answer 2

There are approximately 32 Detective Constables attached to the RCU. A further 62 Detectives are attached to the CAIU's.

Question 3

Whether or not you have a specialist unit, how many STO's (Specially Trained Officers) for rape and sexual offences relating to adults do you have in your force?

Answer 3

The PSNI do not have STO's, as previously mentioned, all staff attached to the RCU are Detective status that specialise in the investigation of rape offences. Officers attached to CAIUs are also of Detective Status and trained to investigate cases of child abuse, including sexual offences.

Question 4

What does those STO's specialist training consist of?

Answer 4

The PSNI do not have STO's, as previously mentioned, however the PSNI recently held a Rape Investigation Course that is the first of it's kind in the U.K. This was provided specifically for the staff attached to the RCU.

In relation to questions 5 a, 5 b, and 8

Question 5a

Do any of those STO's carry out the role in a dedicated manner (without 'other duties').

Question 5b

If those STO's do have 'other duties' what are they?

Question 8

During the last year how many rape or sexual assault allegations were investigated without the involvement of an STO (Specially Trained Officer)?

Answer 5a, 5b, and 8

PSNI adopted a structure to best fit the needs of the organisation and the local community. The Rape Crime Unit (RCU), as part of Serious Crime Branch, was established in April 2008. The remit of RCU is to investigate rape and serious sexual assault committed against adults. Furthermore, the Child Abuse Investigation Unit (CAIU) investigates allegations made by an adult of serious sexual assault, including rape, which occurred when the victim was under 18 years of age.

Therefore to answer your questions in relation to 5 a, 5 b, and 8 it should be clarified that the PSNI do not have STO's. However, PSNI RCU and CAIU Detectives carry out duties relating to the investigation of rape and serious sexual offences within these specialised units.

In relation to questions 6 and 7

Question 6

During the last year what was the highest workload seen by any one of your STO's (Specially Trained Officers) for rape and sexual offences? - i.e. how many cases they were managing at one time.

Question 7

During the last year what was the AVERAGE workload seen by any one of your STO's (Specially Trained Officers) for rape and sexual offences? - i.e. how many cases they were managing at one time.

Answer 6 and 7

As PSNI has two specialised units all staff dedicate their duties to investigate rape and serious sexual assault. Therefore the workload of all the Detectives within these specialised units are balanced and generally consistent with each other.

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