



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-00063
Keyword: Operational Policing
Subject: MISSING CHILDREN

Request and Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full.

Question. How many children are currently listed as "Missing" in Northern Ireland?

You subsequently clarified that by "children" you meant individuals up to and including the age of 17 years. Also that individuals who were children when reported missing but would now be adults should be included and that children reported missing from Children's Homes and still outstanding, missing on the date that your request was received by the PSNI, January 7, 2009, should also be included.

Answer. As of January 7, 2009 there were **38** children listed as missing in Northern Ireland. 16 of these children were reported missing from Children's Homes.

Please note that as the figure quoted includes children reported missing from Children's Homes it is likely to fluctuate daily. This is because children are routinely reported missing by Children's Homes when they do not return at the time expected. In the vast majority of cases they return of their own accord within a short period of being reported missing.

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.psnipolice.uk/>

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