



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F 2010 00200
Keyword: Crime
Subject: ABUSE IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Request and Answer:

Question 1.

How many allegations of sexual or physical abuse against priests have been referred from the Catholic Church to the PSNI from 2002 to date. By that I mean each calendar year 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and January 2010 to January 22 2010.

Question 2.

Please give an estimate in terms of how many are historic cases? For example if you cannot give me a precise figure a rough estimate. For example 20% historic 80% recent allegations etc.

This information is not categorised in an easily retrievable format and a manual case by case search would have to be completed in order to establish if the Catholic Church had referred individual cases to PSNI.

It is therefore estimated that the cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the "appropriate costs limit" under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450.

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.

You may wish to submit a refined request in order that the cost of complying with your request may be facilitated within the 'appropriate limit' however, the nature and structure of the requested information would require a disproportionate cost and be detrimental to staff providing a service to frontline policing. If you submit a refined request this would be treated as a new request, and considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, including consideration of relevant Part II exemptions.

Section 16 Duty to provide Advice and Assistance

There is a previous request where information has been released regarding a particular investigation

and you may find this useful. Below is the link to this request.

http://www.psni.police.uk/abuse_catholic_church.pdf

If you have any queries regarding your request or this decision please do not hesitate to contact 028 9070 0164. When contacting the Freedom of Information Team, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this letter.

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 @ www.psni.police.uk

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