



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F 2010 00693

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Convicted Sex Offenders

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 and the answers to your questions are as follows.

Question 1

How many convicted sex offenders are police aware of living in Belfast, in each of the divisions in Belfast and how many live in Northern Ireland as a whole?

Question 2

Also, can I have a list of the top five cities or towns that have the highest number of convicted sex offenders living there?

Answer

PSNI do not collate local data on convicted sex offenders. We have endeavoured to find out the information you requested regarding convicted sex offenders, but the database system which the PSNI uses to record offences cannot confirm if a conviction or a caution has followed charging for an offence. Another computer system retained convictions until November 2009 however technicians have established that the 2 systems cannot be interrogated in such a way that would allow us to answer this part of your request. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

Section 16 – Duty to Provide Advice and Assistance

Those convicted of sexual offences since 1st September 1997 would be subject to notification requirements (Sexual Offences Act 2003). All persons convicted of sexual offences since 1st September 1997 are subject to multi-agency risk assessment and, where risk of serious harm is identified, risk management. Further information on this subject and statistics relating to Registered Sex Offenders can be found on the Public Protection Agency Northern Ireland website (www.publicprotectionni.com)

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.