



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2010-00949

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Female on Male Domestic Abuse

### Request and Answer:

I am writing to confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information.

### Question 1

I am writing to make an open government request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act. In order to assist you with this request, I am outlining my query as specifically as possible.

Could I receive:

The number of reports of female on male domestic abuse in the last three years for which figures are available?

### Answer

Please see the table below detailing crimes with a domestic motivation where the victim is male for the period 1 April 2007 to 31 December 2009.

Central Statistics Branch, PSNI can only determine the relationship between the victim and offender in crimes that have been detected/cleared.

Central Statistics Branch do not have access to offender details for the period 2006/07 and are therefore unable to provide data for this period.

They have provided data for 2007/08 and 2008/09 and the first three quarters of 2009/10 (April 2009 to December 2009).

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information Intended for Future Publication, it has been decided to refuse access to the information in relation to 2009/10 you have requested. Under Section 22 (1) of the Act the Police Service of Northern Ireland is not obliged to disclose information that is held with a view to its publication at some future date.

The data for the full financial year 2009/10 is intended to be published later this year and will be made available by accessing the PSNI website.

## **Question 2**

The number of prosecutions of female on male domestic abuse in the last three years for which figures are available?

## **Question 3**

The number of convictions for female on male domestic abuse in the last three years for which figures are available?

## **Answer**

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit) to provide you the applicant with a notice which states that fact.

It is estimated that the cost of complying with your request for information in respect of question 2 and question 3 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.

The information requested is held on three separate databases and is not fully connected. The extraction and collation of this data is complex and would require a manual trawl. The process would take in excess of 60 hours to complete.

The PSNI have also considered whether we can be of assistance in terms of helping you refine your request to bring it under the cost limit however, the nature and structure of the information unfortunately makes this impossible.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice in relation to question 2 and question 3.

## **Question 4**

What percentage do reports of female on male domestic abuse make up of overall reports of domestic abuse (male on female, same sex, etc) in the last three years for which figures are available?

## **Answer**

Please refer to the response in question 1.

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 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](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.psnipolice.uk](http://www.psnipolice.uk)

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

**Crimes with a domestic motivation<sup>1</sup> where the victim is male  
1 Apr 2007 to 31 Dec 2009**

	<b>1 Apr 2007 to 31 Mar 2008</b>	<b>1 Apr 2008 to 31 Mar 2009</b>	<b>1 Apr 2009 to 31 Dec 2009</b>
Total crimes with a domestic motivation	9,283	9,211	7,465
of which: victim is male	2,033	2,157	1,705
of which: victim is male and offender is female <sup>2</sup>	114	148	142
Domestic crimes where victim is male and offender is female as a percentage of all domestic crimes <sup>2</sup>	1.2%	1.6%	1.9%

Source: PSNI Central Statistics Unit

<sup>1</sup>A crime will be recorded as having a domestic abuse motivation where it involves threatening behaviour, violence, or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) by one family member against another, or by adults who are or have been intimate partners, regardless of gender.

<sup>2</sup>These figures relate to all offences with a domestic motivation where the victim is male, the offence has been cleared (e.g. offender charged, summonsed to court, cautioned or offence taken into consideration), and a female has been dealt with for the offence. It should be noted that as well as husband/wife, boyfriend/girlfriend the victim/offender relationship could also be, for example, brother/sister or father/daughter. In addition, there may have been more than one offender dealt with for the offence e.g. one male and one female or two females.

Note: this data should be regarded as provisional since it will be subject to change if offenders are subsequently identified and dealt with for uncleared offences.

Data Quality: The PSNI's statistics on crimes with a domestic abuse motivation are derived from a motivation 'tick box' contained in the Occurrence Management Form which has to be completed by a police officer or member of police staff for each such reported crime. The correct application of a domestic abuse motivation is not quality assured by the PSNI's Central Statistics Unit.