



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F 2010 00639

Keyword: Crime

Subject: RAPE INVESTIGATIONS

Request and Answer:

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

Question 1

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

Answer 1

Yes, Rape Crime Units (RCU) have been formed in Belfast, Ballymena and Portadown.

Question 2

How many detectives work in this unit?

Answer 2

At the date of this request there are 45 Detectives. However, all officers are empowered to investigate any offence so this number would not be a permanent service capability.

Question 3

Whether or not you have a specialist unit, how many STO's (specially trained officers) for adult rape and serious sexual assault offences do you have in your force?

Answer 3

PSNI do not use the term STO but can confirm that all officers in the RCU have received training.

Question 4

If you do not have a specialist unit for investigating rape or serious sexual assault how many of the above officers are dedicated to primarily investigating such offences?

Answer 4

N/A.

Question 5

Do you have a policy setting out the highest or average acceptable yearly workload for any one STO investigating rape and serious sexual assault offences? If so what is it? Please break this answer down by rank - DC, DS, DI

Answer 5

PSNI do not have a policy for one STO's work load however, this matter is reviewed by the D/Inspector of each unit monthly, this is based on the bi monthly review by the D/Sergeant of each team.

Question 6

During the last year what was the highest workload seen by any one of your STO's for rape and serious sexual assault offences? - ie how many cases were they managing at any one time? Please break this answer down by rank - DC, DS, DI

Answer 6

D/Constable 27 investigations, D/Sergeant 5, D/Inspector 5.

Question 7

During the last year what was the AVERAGE workload for STO's investigating rape and serious sexual assault offences? Please break this answer down by rank - DC, DS, DI

Answer 7

The average workload per office was, Belfast 14, Ballymena 11 and Portadown 10. The breakdown by rank is considered balanced and proportionate.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate to contact 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.

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.