



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-03163

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Registered Sex Offenders

Request and Answer:

Question

1 the number of registered sex offenders in NI?

2 the number of those who were charged with another offence while on the register in the past five years, broken down by (i) year and (ii) offence?

3 the number who were returned to prison for breaching the terms of their release licence in the past five years, broken down by (i) year and (ii) offence?

4 the number who were returned to prison for breaking the terms of a sex offenders prevention order in the past five years, broken down by (i) year and (ii) offence?

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 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 as it would require the examination of each individual offenders file.

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.

Although excess cost removes the forces obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available within the fees limit. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

Question 1

The number of registered sex offenders in NI?

Answer

There are currently 930 notifiable sex offenders in NI.

Question 4

The number who were returned to prison for breaking the terms of a Sex Offenders Prevention Order in the past five years, broken down by (i) year and (ii) offence?

Answer

October 2008 - December 2009

A total of 8 were returned to prison for breach of SOPO, however it must be stipulated that due to the way information was collated during this time there is no way to identify if this information relates to 8 individual offenders or a smaller number of repeat offenders. Since this time the information that is collated presently has been updated to enable this type of information to be more easily identifiable.

January 2010 - October 2010

A total of 5 were returned to prison for breach of SOPO. This relates to 5 individual offenders. Breaches consist of the following:

- 1 x Being under the influence of or consuming alcohol in public place
- 1 x Not to have or seek to have any contact with a person under 18 unless approved by Social Services or the Designated Risk Manager (DRM)
- 1 x Not to reside at an address without approval of DRM
- 1 x Not to enter child central locations without prior approval of the Area Sex Offenders Risk Management Committee (ASORMC), Local Area Public Protection Panel (LAPPP).
- 1 x Must not associate or seek to communicate with any young female under the age of 18 with a view to forming a relationship, must seek permission of DRM

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'. Submission of a refined request 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. In compliance with Section 16 of the Act, I have also considered whether I can be of any 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.

You may be interested in Registered Sex Offenders statistics that are published in the 'Public Protection Arrangements Northern Ireland' Annual Reports which are available by clicking on the following link; <http://www.publicprotectionni.com/>

If you have any queries regarding your request or this 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.

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.