



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-00079

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Sex Offenders in Northern Ireland

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. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full.

Question 1

How many people are on currently on the sex offender's register in Northern Ireland? Or in other words, how many registered sex offenders are known to be resident in Northern Ireland at present?

Answer

The total number of registered sex offenders in Northern Ireland is 928.

Question 2

How many people on the sex offenders register in Northern Ireland are from outside the Northern Ireland? What is their breakdown by nationality? If you do not have this information, can you tell me how many come from elsewhere in the UK, from the Irish Republic or from the EU/non-EU countries?

Answer

Republic of Ireland = 29
England = 28
Scotland = 11
Wales = 2
Northern Ireland = 753
European Union = 830
Other countries or Non Disclosed=92.

Question 3

Have any of the individuals on the sex offenders register in Northern Ireland but who are from outside Northern Ireland been caught re-offending once they moved to the province? If so, how many have been convicted of crimes in this jurisdiction? What crimes were committed (sexual offenses and non-sexual offenses)? How many counts of each crime were committed? Were any lives lost as a result?

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.

Retrieval of this information would require a manual trawl of all 928 personal records of the individuals on the Sex Offender's Register.

I have 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 your request unfortunately makes this impossible.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice and this part of your request will therefore be closed.

Question 4

Have any registered sex offenders from outside the province known to have arrived in Northern Ireland been deported from Northern Ireland in the past two years?

Answer

No

Question 5

Do the PSNI or staff at points of arrival have the authority to turn sex offenders away on the grounds that they are a registered sex offender?

Answer

No. There is no legislation which allows the Police Service of Northern Ireland this authority.

Question 6

Aside from individuals who have voluntarily relocated to Northern Ireland, has there been any case of a known registered sex offender being relocated to within Northern Ireland from elsewhere in the UK? If so, how many? Have any of these individuals re-offended?

Answer

There have been no cases of a registered sex offender being relocated to Northern Ireland.

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.

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.