



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-00150

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Offences Against Victims Aged Under 18 yrs old

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

The total number of the following groups of offences, for the last three financial years:

Violence against the person
Sexual offences
Robbery
Theft and handling stolen goods
Criminal damage
Drugs offences

The number of the following groups of offences, broken down by the age and sex of the victim, for the last three financial years.

Violence against the person where the victim was under 18
Sexual offences where the victim was under 18
Robbery where the victim was under 18
Theft and handling stolen goods where the victim was under 18
Criminal damage where the victim was under 18
Drugs offences where the victim was under 18

For reference:

By the term 'under 18' I mean 0-17 years old inclusive. i.e. What is legally defined as a child. In terms of the classification of offences, I am referring to the categories of recorded crime used by the Home Office research development statistics here.

Answer

Please see the tables below detailing recorded offences against victims aged under 18 yrs old for the periods 06/07, 07/08 and 08/09.

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.psnipolice.uk

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

Recorded offences by age and gender

2006/07

	Overall	Victim aged under 18 years			Victim age or gender unknown ^{1,2}
		F	M	Total	
Offences against the person	31846	2077	3546	5623	123
Sexual offences	1803	696	159	855	106
Burglary	11562	26	21	47	3562
Robbery	1574	43	95	138	375
Theft	27766	350	526	876	10600
Fraud and forgery	4495	3	1	4	3966
Criminal damage	36321	77	141	218	12706
Offences against the state	1285	0	0	0	1285
Other notifiable offences	4492	12	11	23	4368
Drugs offences	2411	0	0	0	2411
Total	121144	3284	4500	7784	37091

Source: Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

2007/08

	Overall	Victim aged under 18 years			Victim age or gender unknown ^{1,2}
		F	M	Total	
Offences against the person	29580	1822	3029	4851	273
Sexual offences	1822	787	155	942	115
Burglary	11698	24	26	50	4195
Robbery	1143	19	101	120	424
Theft	24733	274	432	706	9882
Fraud and forgery	2796	2	0	2	2403
Criminal damage	30895	83	131	214	10634
Offences against the state	1130	0	0	0	1130
Other notifiable offences	4671	13	7	20	4522
Drugs offences	2720	0	0	0	2720
Total	108468	3024	3881	6905	33578

Source: Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

2008/09

	Overall	Victim aged under 18 years			Victim age or gender unknown ^{1,2}
		F	M	Total	
Offences against the person	29468	1941	2931	4872	228
Sexual offences	1943	907	177	1084	152
Burglary	12474	20	13	33	4026
Robbery	1283	26	69	95	450
Theft	26241	244	426	670	10707
Fraud and forgery	3589	2	5	7	3132
Criminal damage	28421	82	141	223	8555
Offences against the state	1405	0	0	0	1405
Other notifiable offences	5270	14	17	31	5086
Drugs offences	2974	0	0	0	2974
Total	110094	3236	3779	7015	33741

Source: Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

¹ While offences where the victim age or gender are unknown will include some crimes with incomplete information on person victims, these will also include crimes where the victim is not a person such as Offences against the state, Drugs offences and offences where the victim is a business/ organisation.

² There is an increased level of quality in age/gender information for Offences against the person, Sexual Offences and Robberies. This is due to quality improvement processes in place for completed victim information focussing efforts on these offence types.