



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2011-00456

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Domestic Violence 2009/10

### Request and Answer:

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

### Question 1

How many cases (incidents and crimes) of domestic violence were reported to your police force from 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010?

### Question 2

How many of these cases involved victims who were pregnant at the time?

### Question 3

How many of these cases involved children and what were their ages?

### 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.

To retrieve information requested regarding victims who were pregnant would require a manual search through each incident. In 2009/10 there were 24482 incidents of domestic violence and at approximately 5 minutes per incident to ascertain such detail would amount to 2040 hours which hugely exceeds the cost limit.

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.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland have also considered whether we can be of any assistance in terms of helping you refine your request to bring it under the cost limit, however due to the nature

and structure of question 2 makes this impossible.

Although excess cost removes the service's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this will be helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

### **Answer 1**

To access Statistics of Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes please visit the website at:  
[http://www.psni.police.uk/2\\_domestic\\_incidents\\_and\\_crimes\\_final.pdf](http://www.psni.police.uk/2_domestic_incidents_and_crimes_final.pdf)

### **Answer 3**

Please see table below on Recorded offences with a domestic abuse motivation by age of victim.

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](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.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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

**Recorded offences with a domestic abuse motivation by age of victim**

**Northern Ireland**

**1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010**

	<b>Recorded</b>
<b>Total number of crimes</b>	<b>9903</b>
<i>Total number of crimes where the victim is aged under 18</i>	975
<i>Total number of crimes where the victim age is unknown</i>	1215

<b>Age</b>	<b>Recorded</b>
0	24
1	18
2	25
3	26
4	37
5	30
6	26
7	31
8	28
9	35
10	29
11	26
12	50
13	62
14	97
15	122
16	139
17	170
<b>Total</b>	<b>975</b>

**Source: Central Statistics Unit, PSNI**