



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-00871

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Sexual Offenders Prevention Order

Request and Answer:

Question 1

How many people have been arrested in each police district in each of the last 10 years for breaching a Sexual Offenders Prevention Order (SOPO) conditions?

Question 2

How many of these people, in each district, in each of the last 10 years, were brought before the courts?

Question 3

In each district, in each of the last 10 years, what was the breakdown – in categories - for the alleged breaches, ie: how many people were for being in a place they were not meant to be or for having an internet connection when banned or out after a certain time etc..?

Question 4

How many of these people, in each district, in each of the last 10 years, were brought before the courts for a repeat breach or breaches of their SOPO conditions?

Question 5

How many of these people, in each district, in each of the last 10 years, were sent to prison for breaching their SOPO conditions?

Question 6

What was the breakdown - in categories - of penalties or decisions imposed or reached by the courts, in each district, in each of the last 10 years, for breaching SOPO conditions? (If not available in districts, then simply in categories for each of the last 10 years).

Answer

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), 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 (18hrs).

The Public Protection Arrangements Northern Ireland (PPANI) Unit has advised that this request could not be responded to within 18 hours set down in the legislation. Not all the information is held on one system and any information would have to be retrieved from a number of differing databases. Presently there are over 2200 case files within PPANI and to comply with the research requested in this FOI a conservative estimate would be well in excess of 300 hours to research these and the databases.

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.

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’. In compliance with Section 16 of the Act, I have considered how your request may be refined to bring it under the appropriate limit however the nature and structure of the information unfortunately makes this impossible.

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.

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.