



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-00338

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Sexual Crimes

Request and Answer:

Question 1

For each of the five years – broken down by calendar years 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007 and 2006 – list how many people were arrested on suspicion of:

- Rape
- Indecent assault
- Sexual assault
- Child sex offences
- Indecent photos of children
- Total sexual offences

Question 2

For each offence list how many people were:

- Charged
- Cautioned
- Released without charge

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 PSNI Information and Communications Systems (ICS) Branch have interrogated our Crime Recording systems and they have advised that it would take in excess of the 18 hours permitted under legislation to extract information requested. The reason for this is that there is an extensive list of release options including transferred to prison, transferred to court, charged or reported, cautioned etc which would need to be searched under.

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.

Although excess cost removes the PSNI’s obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, I have provided below the information which was retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. 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.

ICS have provided in the tables below the total number of arrests and the number classified as "charged or reported", "cautioned" and "released without charged" for the offences requested. It should be noted that other release options have not been included as this would exceed the cost limit and this is the reason that the total arrests will not match the total of release options.

Rape

	Total	Charged/Reported	Cautioned	Released without charge
2006	246	165	0	47
2007	297	226	0	44
2008	265	219	0	26
2009	246	199	1	25
2010	267	195	1	31

Indecent assault

	Total	Charged/Reported	Cautioned	Released without charge
2006	243	201	0	30
2007	178	151	0	14
2008	183	163	0	14
2009	92	81	0	5
2010	74	63	2	3

Sexual assault

	Total	Charged/Reported	Cautioned	Released without charge
2006	239	217	0	8
2007	175	150	0	3
2008	185	170	0	5
2009	161	142	0	2
2010	219	188	1	4

Child sex offences

	Total	Charged/Reported	Cautioned	Released without charge
2006	38	28	0	8
2007	44	35	0	4
2008	64	61	0	2
2009	54	53	1	1
2010	42	30	0	2

Indecent photos of children

	Total	Charged/Reported	Cautioned	Released without charge
2006	53	36	0	13
2007	65	46	0	11
2008	58	44	0	8
2009	55	46	0	4
2010	58	23	0	2

Total sexual offences

	Total	Charged/Reported	Cautioned	Released without charge
2006	143	127	0	8
2007	126	113	0	8
2008	133	116	0	11
2009	174	161	7	5
2010	158	136	10	9

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.

