



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-01436

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Solicitation Arrests Under 16 Years Old

Request and Answer:

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

Question

Please give me the breakdown over the past three years of how many children under the age of 16 have been arrested on grounds of suspected solicitation or solicitation or charged with solicitation i.e. the number in each year 2011/10, 2010/09, 2009/08.

- in the breakdown please specify how many in each year were charged and how many were arrested.

- in the breakdown please specify the age and sex of each child arrested and charged.

Answer

Searches were conducted however these searches failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided. Community Safety Branch were also consulted and advised that a person under the age of 16, being under the age of 18 years, is legally classed as a child.

If a child was ascertained by Police to be involved in prostitution they would be treated as a victim of criminality as opposed to an offender. The PSNI routinely, actively safeguard children in undertaking all relevant criminal investigations.

Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

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.