



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-02713

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Cases Of Child Abduction

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 and the answers to your questions are as follows.

Question 1

How many cases of child abduction has the PSNI recorded in the past three years, 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11?

Question 2

Of these cases how many resulted in charges being brought?

Answer

Your request for information has now been considered and I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide the applicant with a notice which: (a) states the fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The following exemption has been applied:

Section 21 - Information Reasonably Accessible by Other Means

The information you requested may be located on the PSNI Publication Scheme at the link below

http://www.psni.police.uk/police_recorded_crime_in_northern_ireland_1998-99_to_2010-11.pdf

Table 2.2 on page 18 of the PSNI Crime Statistics publication (link above) gives the numbers of crime abduction offences recorded each year since 98/99

In response to Question 2 the number of child abduction offences recorded in 2008/09 to 2010/11 that have since been cleared by means of a charge/summons can be found in table 5.2 on page 32.

Question 3

How many of these charges resulted in successful prosecutions?

Answer

With regard to charges resulting in successful prosecutions we are unable to provide this information as it has only recently become available on our crime recording systems (NICHE) and we do not have a complete and accurate conviction history available. The Public Prosecution Service may be best placed to assist you with an answer regarding conviction history and I have provided a link below to their website

<http://www.ppsni.gov.uk/default.aspx?CATID=6>

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.