



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2012-01511

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Allegations of Rape

### **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. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full.

Clarification received: I am interested in a full picture of the recent situation in Northern Ireland regarding the crime of rape. Therefore, as long as the numbers for recorded and detected do not exclude comparison with the numbers for those 'no crimed' and then prosecution and conviction figures in some way then I would be happy for my request to proceed in this way.

### **Question 1**

How many allegations of rape did the PSNI record for the 12 months from and including April 2007 to and including March 2008? How many people were charged with rape during this time period? How many prosecutions resulted from these charges? How many convictions resulted from the prosecutions brought? Please provide a table showing these statistics.

### **Question 2**

How many allegations of rape did the PSNI record for the 12 months from and including April 2008 to and including March 2009? How many people were charged with rape during this time period? How many prosecutions resulted from these charges? How many convictions resulted from the prosecutions brought? Please provide a table showing these statistics.

### **Question 3**

How many allegations of rape did the PSNI record for the 12 months from and including April 2009 to and including March 2010? How many people were charged with rape during this time period? How many prosecutions resulted from these charges? How many convictions resulted from the prosecutions brought? Please provide a table showing these statistics.

### **Question 4**

How many allegations of rape did the PSNI record for the 12 months from and including April 2010 to and including March 2011? How many people were charged with rape during this time period? How many prosecutions resulted from these charges? How many convictions resulted from the prosecutions brought? Please provide a table showing these statistics.

## Answer

As previously clarified the information provided by Central Statistics Branch in the table below relates to recorded, detected and 'no crimed' rape offences, including attempted rape.

### Recorded, detected and 'no crimed'<sup>1</sup> rape offences (including attempts)

#### Northern Ireland

	Recorded	Detected <sup>2</sup>	No Crimed Offences <sup>1</sup>
2007/08	415	67	5
2008/09	404	85	14
2009/10	461	59	21
2010/11	550	79	17

<sup>1</sup> 'No Crimed' offences relate to crimes initially recorded and subsequently shown to meet certain criteria in the same financial year to no longer make the crime valid.

<sup>2</sup> Detections (or clearances as they may alternatively be known) are, broadly speaking, those crimes that have been 'cleared up' by the police. Crimes are counted as 'detected or cleared' in accordance with strict counting rules issued by the Home Office. They are counted on the basis of crimes rather than offenders. For example, if six offenders are involved in a robbery and are all arrested and charged, then this counts as one detection (i.e. the robbery is deemed to be 'detected'). Alternatively if only one of the six is identified and charged while the other five remain unidentified and at large, this also means that the robbery can still be deemed as 'detected'. The following methods of detection involve a formal sanction:

Charging or issuing a summons to an offender;

Issuing a caution to the offender;

Having the offence accepted for consideration in court;

The offender is a juvenile who is dealt with by means of an informed warning, restorative caution or prosecutorial diversion.

In addition, for the most serious offence types ('indictable only' – see recorded crime paragraph above for explanation) a non sanction detection can be claimed if:

The Public Prosecution Service (PPS) directs no prosecution; or

The case cannot proceed because the offender has died.

PSNI do not record the number of prosecutions arising from charges. The Court Service may be able to provide this information. Information & Communication Services (ICS) has provided information in the tables below in relation to persons charged to court for rape offences and the persons reported to the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) for rape offences.

Year	Number of persons charged to court for rape offences
2007/2008	74
2008/2009	92
2009/2010	66
2010/2011	77
2011/2012	104

Year	Number of persons reported to PPS for rape offences
2007/2008	166
2008/2009	155
2009/2010	167
2010/2011	178
2011/2012	204

For your information, the PSNI Annual Bulletin details 'Trends in Police Recorded Crime' in Northern Ireland can be accessed via the PSNI website using the link provided below:

[http://www.psni.police.uk/police\\_recorded\\_crime\\_in\\_northern\\_ireland\\_1998-99\\_to\\_2010-11.pdf](http://www.psni.police.uk/police_recorded_crime_in_northern_ireland_1998-99_to_2010-11.pdf)

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](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.