



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2012-02045

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Domestic and Sexual Offences

### 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.

### Question 1

Following the publication on 10th May 2012 of the 'Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland - Quarterly Update to 31 March 2012' and 'Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland: Monthly Update to 31 March 2012', I would like to request the following information under FOI:

- A. Of the 10,387 recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation:
1. how many victims were female;
  2. how many victims were male;
  3. how many victims were children under the age of 17; and
  4. how many recorded crimes were there, where gender/age was not recorded.

### Question 2

- B. Of the 1,836 sexual offences recorded for 2011/2012:
1. how many victims were female;
  2. how many victims were male;
  3. how many victims were children; and
  4. how many recorded crimes were there, where gender/age was not recorded.

### Answer

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 it has been decided to refuse access to the information you have requested. Under Section 22 (1) of the Act the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) is not obliged to disclose information that is held with a view to its publication at some future date.

Section 22 is a qualified exemption so therefore the PSNI is obliged to carry out a Public Interest Test.

### Public Interest Considerations – Section 22

### Factors favouring disclosure

Disclosure at this time would provide the public with an awareness of the crime recorded with a domestic motivation and sexual offences in 2011 / 2012.

### Factors favouring non-disclosure

As a decision has been made to publish this information in future and the spending of additional funds in order to answer this request would not be in the public interest.

### Balancing Test

There needs to be a real and valid reason which identifies a tangible benefit to the public from disclosure of information. For the reasons outlined above the balancing test at present would be to not release the requested information.

Please find the link below to PSNI Statistics website which plans to publish the annual statistics in early July.

[http://www.psni.police.uk/index/updates/updates\\_statistics/update\\_crime\\_statistics.htm](http://www.psni.police.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics/update_crime_statistics.htm)

### **Question 3**

C. Of the 1,836 sexual offences recorded for 2011/2012 can you please provide a breakdown as follows in relation to the figures regarding children:

1. number of sexual assaults on a male child under 13
2. number of sexual assaults on a female child under 13
3. number of Sexual assaults on male child aged between 13 to 15 years
4. number of sexual assaults on female child aged between 13 to 15 years
5. sexual activity involving a child under 13
6. sexual activity involving a child under 16
7. number of rapes of a female child (under 16)
8. number of rapes of a male child (under 16)
9. number of attempted rapes of a female child (under 16)
10. number of attempted rapes of a male child (under 16)
11. abuse of children through prostitution or pornography

### **Answer**

The information you have requested for question 3, parts 1, 2,5,6 and 11 is available from the PSNI website and can be accessed using the following link:

[http://www.psni.police.uk/monthly\\_crime\\_update\\_apr-mar\\_11\\_12.xls](http://www.psni.police.uk/monthly_crime_update_apr-mar_11_12.xls)

Please find attached in the table at the end of this correspondence the response to question 3, parts 3,4,7,8, 9 and 10.

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.

## Recorded sexual offences by age of victim

2011/12

	Recorded
Sexual assaults on male child aged between 13 to 15 years	22
Sexual assaults on female child aged between 13 to 15 years	82
Number of rapes of a female child (under 16)	152
Number of rapes of a male child (under 16)	34
Number of attempted rapes of a female child (under 16)	6
Number of attempted rapes of a male child (under 16)	6

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch