



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2012-02804

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Sexual Offences Committed by Under 18's

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

I would like to know the number of sexual offences committed by people under the age of 18 over the last five years.

I would like to specifically know -

The age of each offender

Whether they were convicted or given a warning

The sentence they received

The sex of each offender

What was the exact offence committed

Answer

Please see the tables at the end of this correspondence detailing the age and gender of the offender and the offence committed.

The figures provided are based on the number of sexual offences recorded by the police between 2007/08 and 2011/12 that have since been detected by means of a Home Office detection method, and where at least one of the offenders was under the age of 18.

As there are some offences recorded by the police where more than one offender was detected in relation to that offence, the total for age / sex of offender and detection method is higher than the total number of offences recorded.

There were 237 sexual offences recorded by the police between 2007/08 and 2011/12 which have since been detected, and where at least one of the offenders was under the age of 18. There have

been 254 offenders under the age of 18 detected in relation to these offences. As currently undetected offences may be detected in the future, the number of offenders remains subject to change.

PSNI do not hold information in relation to convictions and the subsequent sentence received. The N.I Court Service may be able to assist with this part of your request. However under Section 16 of the FOIA, to assist your request I have provided the Detection Method.

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.psni.police.uk

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.

**Sexual offences committed by people under the age of 18 over the last five years
Northern Ireland (financial years 2007/08 to 2011/12)**

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch

Detection Method	
Charge/summons	149
Juvenile Caution	98
Non sanction detection	7
Total	254

Age of offender	
10	6
11	4
12	16
13	24
14	48
15	48
16	57
17	51
Total	254

Sex of offender	
Female	14
Male	240
Total	254

Exact offence committed

The exact offence committed refers to what was reported to and recorded by police. The offence with which the offender was detected may not be exactly the same as the offence recorded.

The table below provides the exact offence committed, grouped by the Home Office classifications for sexual offences. Please see the footnotes below the table which explain changes in the sexual offence legislation. Further information is available on the PSNI Internet site:

[Trends in Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland 1998/99 to 2011/12](#)

[User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics in Northern Ireland](#)

Home Office Classification	Exact offence Committed	Number
17 Indecent assault on a male ^{1,2,3}	Indecent assault on male	1
	Indecent assault on male child	7
17A Sexual assault on a male aged 13 and over ¹	Sexual assault	9
17B Sexual assault on a male child under 13 ¹	Sexual assault of child under 13	14
18 Gross indecency between males ^{1,2,3}	Gross indecency	4
19A-19H Rape	Rape	31
	Rape of a child under 13	12
20 Indecent assault on a female ^{1,2,3}	Indecent assault on female	8
	Indecent assault on female child	22
20A Sexual assault on a female aged 13 and over ¹	Sexual assault	30
	Sexual assault by penetration	5
20B Sexual assault on a female child under 13 ¹	Sexual assault of child under 13	13
	Sexual assault of child under 13 by penetration	1
21 Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 14 ^{1,2,3}	Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 14 years	1
21 Sexual activity involving a child under 13 ¹	Causing or inciting child under 13 to engage in sexual activity	4
	Causing Or Inciting Child Under 13 To Engage In Sexual Activity Involving penetration	1
	Cause or incite a child under 13 to watch a sexual act	2
	Engage in sexual activity in presence of a child under 13	1
	Sexual activity by non adult with a child under 13	2
22 Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under	Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 17 years	7

17 ^{1,2,3}		
22B Sexual activity involving a child under 16 ¹	Causing or inciting child between 13 and 16 to engage in sexual activity	6
	Causing or inciting child between 13 and 16 to engage in sexual activity involving penetration	1
	Sexual activity involving penetration with child between 13 & 16	5
23 Incest or familial sexual offences ¹	Sexual activity with a child family member (non-penetrative)	1
74 Gross indecency with a child ^{1,2,3}	Gross indecency with a child	3
88E Exposure and voyeurism ^{1,4}	Exposure / Indecent exposure / Indecent exposure with intent to insult a female	41
	Operating equipment for the purpose of voyeurism	1
	Voyeurism	4
Total		237

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch

1. The Sexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 2008 was introduced in February 2009 and has altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences.
2. Offences classified as 17 Indecent assault on a male, 20 Indecent assault on a female, 21 Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 14, 22 Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 17, 74 Gross indecency with a child, 16 Buggery and 18 Gross indecency between males relate to legislation that existed prior to that introduced in February 2009. From April 2010 offences are no longer recorded using these classifications.
3. Under the Home Office Counting Rules, offences which were reported to the police between February 2009 and March 2010 but which were committed prior to February 2009 were recorded under the previous legislation wherever possible. However in April 2010 this guidance was changed so that historic allegations committed under previous legislation should be recorded and detected as if committed today.
4. Offences were originally implemented through the Sexual Offences Act 2003.