



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2012-00697

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Crimes Committed by Offenders aged over 65 years

### 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

How many crimes were reported in your area in 2011 where the offender was reported to be over the age of 65?

The following clarification was sent out: the record owner Statistics Branch cannot provide all reported crime where the offender was over 65 years as not all reported crime will have an offender linked to them. Offenders will only be linked where the offence has been detected. As a variation to this request, Statistics Branch can provide all Detected offences reported to the PSNI in 2011 where the linked offender is aged over 65 years. Statistics Branch has advised that more than one offender may be held responsible for committing an offence and dealt with accordingly but an offence is regarded as detected as soon as one offender has been held to account. Subsequently you agreed with the information Central Statistics Branch could provide.

#### Question 2

Could I please have a breakdown of these reported crimes by the type of offence?

#### Question 3

How many of these reported crimes were detected?

#### Question 4

Could I please have a breakdown of these detected crimes by the type of offence?

#### Question 5

How many crimes were reported in your area in each of the years 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002 and 2001 where the offender was reported to be over the age of 65?

#### Question 6

How many crimes were detected in your area in each of the years 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006,

2005, 2004, 2003, 2002 and 2001 where the offender was reported to be over the age of 65?

**Answer**

Please find the response to your questions in the attached tables at the end of this correspondence.

The information has been provided by Statistics Branch from 2007 using the NICHE recording system. Information and Communications Services Branch (ICS) provided the information from 2001 – 2006 using the ICS recording system.

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 crime offences that have since been detected and at least one accused person is aged 65 years and over

### Northern Ireland

| 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 213  | 257  | 294  | 346  | 331  | 297  |

Source: PSNI ICS Branch

**Please Note:** This information was based on the detection status of reported crime for the given time periods. These figures can change over time as a result of ongoing investigations. This being more prevalent for more recent figures where case files will still be in development.

#### Detections

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.

**Recorded crime offences that have since been detected and at least one accused person is aged 65 years and over**

**Northern Ireland**

|                              | 1st April to 31st December 2007 | 2008       | 2009       | 2010       | 2011       |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Violence Against the Person  | 47                              | 71         | 69         | 85         | 68         |
| Sexual Offences              | 22                              | 25         | 19         | 22         | 16         |
| Robbery                      | 0                               | 0          | 1          | 0          | 0          |
| Burglary                     | 1                               | 0          | 0          | 1          | 0          |
| Theft                        | 33                              | 74         | 62         | 60         | 30         |
| Fraud and forgery            | 0                               | 3          | 8          | 2          | 5          |
| Criminal Damage              | 7                               | 9          | 12         | 37         | 6          |
| Drug Offences                | 1                               | 0          | 1          | 0          | 0          |
| Other Miscellaneous Offences | 7                               | 13         | 28         | 39         | 26         |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>118</b>                      | <b>195</b> | <b>200</b> | <b>246</b> | <b>151</b> |

**Source: PSNI Statistics Branch**

<sup>1</sup> Offender age was unknown for 1.6% of detected offences across the time period.

**Please Note:** This information was based on the detection status of reported crime for the given time periods. These figures can change over time as a result of ongoing investigations. This being more prevalent for more recent figures where case files will still be in development.

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