



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2012-01081

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Youngest Offenders Questioned in the Last 12 Months

### Request and Answer:

I am writing to confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information.

I have today decided to disclose information in response to your questions subject to the deletion of information pursuant to the provisions of Section 40 of the Freedom of Information 2000 (the Act).

### Question

Please give details of the youngest offenders that have been questioned by police in the last 12 months.

Please provide the date they were questioned, and what the alleged offence was.

Where possible, please provide as much detail about the offence as is legally possible - including the age of other people involved, and where the offence took place.

### Answer

Please see the table attached at the end of this correspondence which provides details of the youngest offenders by District Command Unit in which the offence took place, the offence and age of the offender.

Please note that statistics are subject to change, due to the nature of the IT system from which the data is extracted i.e. a live system.

Further information on the areas covered by District Command Units can be found on the PSNI website under "My Neighbourhood". This can be accessed using the following link;

<http://www.psni.police.uk/>

There is no information held relating to ages of other individuals involved.

I have decided to withhold the dates of the offences as these could be used to identify individuals

involved.

Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states that fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

The exemption, as well as the factors the Department considered when deciding where the public interest lies, are listed below:

**Section 40 Personal Information** is a class-based exemption, therefore it is not necessary to evidence the harm caused by disclosure. The data protection rights of a third party would be breached by disclosure, therefore Section 40(2) is an Absolute exemption and a Public Interest Test is not necessary. This is so because personal data is governed by other law (The Data Protection Act 1998). All requests made under FOIA are applicant blind. A request must be treated as such and a public authority will always view any disclosure as into the public domain and not just to an individual.

Personal Data is regulated under the principles of the Data Protection Act 1998 and when information contains personal data about a third party it can only be released if disclosure would not breach any data protection principles.

Principle (1), that personal data is processed lawfully and fairly. Personal data of this nature is recorded and it must be treated in a highly confidential manner and any public disclosure would be unlawful if there is a breach of that law of confidentiality.

The date that an incident took place, along with further specific details of the incident, could be used to identify any individuals involved.

The Service would be failing in its lawful duty were it to breach the Data Protection Act in order to furnish a disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Service has a duty to protect the personal data of all individuals and any disclosure of this type of data into the public domain will be unfair to any individual concerned. The public must have confidence that any of their information is treated sensitively and appropriately. Therefore, in all circumstances of the case, public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

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.

**A District  
Offence Date**



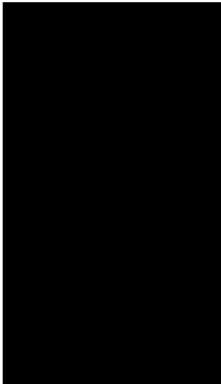
<b>Offence</b>	<b>Offender's Age</b>
Public Order Related	10
Public Order Related	10
Public Order Related	10
Criminal Damage	10

**B District  
Offence Date**



<b>Offence</b>	<b>Offender's Age</b>
Theft	5
Criminal Damage	7
Criminal Damage	7
Theft	9
Common Assault	9
Theft	10
Criminal Damage	10
Theft	10
Disorderly Behaviour	10

**C District  
Offence Date**



<b>Offence</b>	<b>Offender's Age</b>
AOABH	9
Common Assault	9
Common Assault	9
Common Assault	9
Criminal Damage	10
Common Assault	10
Burglary	10
Theft	10
Common Assault	10
Theft	10

**D District  
Offence Date**

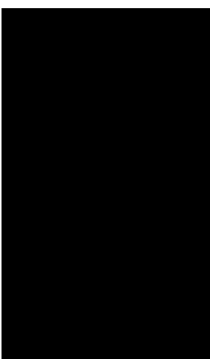
s.F40  
s.F40(2)  
s.F40(2)(a)  
s.F40(2)(b)



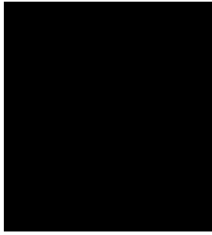
<b>Offence</b>	<b>Offender's Age</b>
Criminal Damage	10
Theft	10
Theft	10
Theft	10

s.F40(3)(a)  
s.F40(3)(ai)

**E District  
Offence Date**

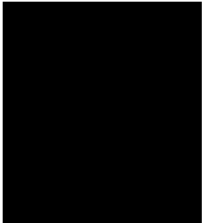


<b>Offence</b>	<b>Offender's Age</b>
Theft	7
Criminal Damage	10
Aggravated Assault	10
Aggravated Assault	10
Aggravated Assault	10
Common Assault	10
Common Assault	10
Common Assault	10
Criminal Damage	10



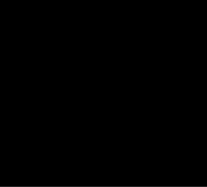
Theft	10
Theft	10
Theft	10
Theft	10
Common Assault	10
Theft	10

**F District  
Offence Date**



<b>Offence</b>	<b>Offender's Age</b>
Criminal Damage	9
Criminal Damage	9
Criminal Damage	10
Criminal Damage	10
Theft	10
Theft	10

**G District  
Offence Date**



<b>Offence</b>	<b>Offender's Age</b>
Aggravated Assault	7
Motoring	10
Criminal Damage	10
Theft	10
Criminal Damage	10

s.F40

s.F40(2)

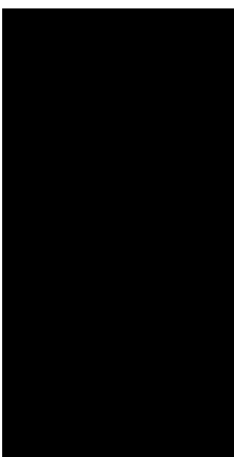
s.F40(2)(a)

s.F40(2)(b)

s.F40(3)(a)

s.F40(3)(ai)

**H District  
Offence Date**



<b>Offence</b>	<b>Offender's Age</b>
Aggravated Assault	8
Theft	9
Common Assault	10
Common Assault	10
Offensive Weapon	10
Criminal Damage	10
Theft	10
Theft	10
Disorderly Behaviour	10
Common Assault	10
Common Assault	10
Common Assault	10