



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2012-02152

**Keyword:** Operational Policing

**Subject:** Police Information arrests of Grandparents

### Request and Answer:

#### Question

How many Police Information Notices have been issued by your police force to grandparents under the Protection from Harassment Act with regard to their contacting or attempting to make contact with their grandchildren in each of the years since 2008, or for which records are available?

#### Question

How many arrests have been made by your police force of grandparents as a result of to their contacting or attempting to make contact with their grandchildren in each of the years since 2008, or for which records are available?

#### Answer

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit) to provide you the applicant with a notice which states that fact.

It is estimated that the cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the "appropriate costs limit" under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450.

I have contacted the record owner Information Communications Services Branch (ICS) in an attempt to retrieve the information to respond to your request. The information requested is stored both manually and on computer from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 on the NICHE system. There is currently ongoing training for staff for the new documents Personal Information Notices (PIN's) which have to be scanned onto the NICHE system. There is a 'Harassment' flag put on NICHE but there are no specific details held on the flag. The manual forms (HAR1) are still being used during this transition period and are held within each Station. Therefore to provide a response would require a manual search of 250,000 incidents as each incident would have to be opened and checked to locate the information requested and this process is estimated to take 10 minutes per incident. It is therefore estimated that it would take a total of 4166 hours.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice, and the request has therefore been closed.

You may wish to submit a refined request in order that the cost of complying with your request may

be facilitated within the 'appropriate limit'. In compliance with Section 16 of the Act, I have considered how your request may be refined to bring it under the appropriate limit however the nature and structure of the information unfortunately makes this impossible.

Submission of a refined request would be treated as a new request, and considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, including consideration of relevant Part II exemptions.

If you have any queries regarding your request or this 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.psnipolice.uk](http://www.psnipolice.uk)

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