



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2014-05451

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Alleged Crimes by Children Aged 8 Years and Younger

Request and Answer:

Question

Under the Freedom of Information Act, could I please request the following information:

1. How many crimes were committed by children 8 years old and younger in 2013?
2. Could I also please get the figures for 2011?
3. Could I also please get the figures for 2012?
4. Could I also please get the figures that have so far been recorded in 2014?
5. In each case, could I please get the details of what the crime was (e.g. vandalism)?

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.

Please find attached below a breakdown for the number of alleged incidents by children 8 years and younger for the years 2011 to 2014 broken down by offence type.

Please note that these figures are for alleged incidents and are not final validated statistics, as children less than 10 years old are under the age of criminal responsibility so in legal terms cannot commit a crime.

Human error must be taken into consideration when examining data of this nature. There are a number of labelling options as well as age related factors that can be misinterpreted, which can create the potential for incorrect data.

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.

Number of Alleged Incidents by Children 8 Years and Younger

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Aggravated Assault	1	0	0	0
AOABH	0	0	0	1
Common Assault	0	3	0	0
Criminal Damage	0	1	0	0
	1	0	0	0
	2	1	0	0
	0	1	0	0
Cruelty	0	2	0	0
Theft	1	0	0	0
	0	0	0	1
	0	1	0	3
	0	0	0	1
Offences	5	9	0	6