



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2014-04046

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Child Abduction Data 2012/13 and 2013/14

Request and Answer:

Question

Last month the Police Service of Northern Ireland published crime statistics which showed that 40 child abduction offences were recorded in 2013/14. I'm writing to you to gather further details of child abduction and kidnapping offences.

We would like to receive the same information for two one-year periods: 2012/13 and 2013/14. I'd be very grateful if you could supply the following information:

2013/14:

1. From 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014, how many crimes* of child abduction by a parent (Home Office classification^ 13/1) were recorded by PSNI?
2. From 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014, how many crimes* of child abduction by other persons (Home Office classification^ 13/2) were recorded by PSNI?
3. From 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014, how many crimes* of kidnapping (Home Office classification^ 36) - when the victim was aged under 18 at the time of the offence - were recorded by PSNI?

2012/13:

4. From 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013, how many crimes* of child abduction by a parent (Home Office classification^ 13/1) were recorded by PSNI?
5. From 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013, how many crimes* of child abduction by other persons (Home Office classification^ 13/2) were recorded by PSNI?
6. From 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013, how many crimes* of kidnapping (Home Office classification^ 36) - when the victim was aged under 18 at the time of the offence - were recorded by PSNI?

*I'm looking for information on crimes recorded rather than 'incidents'.

Home Office classification number refers to the Counting Rules:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/299318/count-violence-april-2014.pdf

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 below a table showing the number of recorded child abductions by a parent, the number of child abductions by other persons and the number of kidnappings where the victim was under 18 years of age for 2012/13 and 2013/14.

| | 2012/13 | 2013/14 |
|---------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Child abduction by parent | 9 | 5 |
| Child abduction by other person | 34 | 35 |
| Kidnapping (victim under 18) | 12 | 10 |

The figures provided are based on the offence codes used within Northern Ireland that are the equivalent of the Home Office codes listed by the requester.

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch

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.