



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2014-03810

Keyword: Crime

Subject: PERSONS AGED 15 OR YOUNGER ARRESTED FOR SEXUAL OFFENCES

Request and Answer:

Question

I would like to know how many children aged 15 or younger have been arrested in connection with any sex offences including rape/sexual assault in the past five years, going back to 2009. Can you detail how many were male, how many female and the youngest age to be arrested within this period.

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 persons arrested¹ for a sexual offence, aged² 15 and under between 1st April 2009 and 31st March 2014. This has been broken down to show the numbers of males and females. The youngest person arrested in connection with a sexual offence during this period was 12 years of age.

Gender	Number of persons arrested
Male	127
Female	7
Total	134

Source: PSNI statistics branch

¹ Arrested and processed through custody.

² The age is based on the age at the time of arrest.

Sexual offences include: rape, sexual assault, sexual activity, indecent exposure, making or possessing indecent photos of children and voyeurism.

The number of persons arrested is a count of individual persons arrested. An individual may have been arrested at any time during 1st April 2009 and 31st March 2014, and arrested more than once and in connection with more than one offence.

Please note: This information is based on data extracted from a live system and may be subject to change. It is dependent on the information having been input into the system in such a way as to identify those records that are relevant

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.