



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2015-03185

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Domestic Violence Involving Children and Parents

### **Request and Answer:**

#### **Question 1**

How many incidents of domestic violence involving children under the age of 17 and under against their parents were reported to police so far this year. January 1, 2015 until October 6, 2015 and for the previous year January 1, 2014 until December 31, 2014??

#### **Question 2**

Nature of attack against parent, attempted murder, GBH etc.

#### **Question 3**

Please state if parent is mother or father.

#### **Question 4**

Nature of injuries sustained by parent i.e. broken arm etc.

#### **Question 5**

How many parents needed hospital treatment?

#### **Question 6**

Age of youngest child suspected of attacking parents and nature of attack?

#### **Question 7**

How many arrests of minor, how many charged with offence?

#### **Question 8**

How many incidents of domestic violence involving parents against their children aged 17 and under were reported to police so far this year. January 1, 2015 until October 6, 2015 and for the previous year January 1, 2014 until December 31, 2014??

#### **Question 9**

Nature of attack against minor, attempted murder, GBH etc and if attacker was the mother or father, or indeed both parents.

#### **Question 10**

Please state age of youngest victim and injuries

**Question 11**

Nature of injuries sustained by children i.e. broken arm etc.

**Question 12**

How many children needed hospital treatment?

**Question 13**

How many arrests please state mother or father, how many charged with offence?

**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.

Searches were conducted to determine the number of domestic abuse motivated crimes reported to the PSNI on or after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 with the recorded relationship details which would indicate a parent / child relationship. This search indicated that there were 6,420 such incidents where the recorded details indicate a parent / child relationship and an additional 1,850 incidents where no relationship information was provided in the available fields on the PSNI crime recording system. However, to determine the exact relationship between the suspect / offender and the victim and to confirm the relationship as child to parent etc. would require a manual examination of each incident. In addition, to provide a complete result it would be necessary to perform the same manual examination of those incidents where no relationship information was provided in order to determine if any of those incidents also relate to a parent and child. It has been estimated that to perform the manual inspection of these 8,270 incidents would take approximately 1,379 hours which would put this request greatly over cost.

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. Unfortunately, due to the large number of incidents involved and the need for them to be manually inspected in order to retrieve the requested information, no refinement is possible in this case to bring the request under the appropriate cost limit.

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.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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