



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2016-00038

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Crimes Committed by Children Aged 10 and Under

Request and Answer:

Question 1

Under the FOI Act can I find out the following: Can I get a list of crimes committed by children aged ten and under in the Strabane District Council area in the past three years?

Clarification Sought

It may be possible to provide, within cost, the information requested for 2014 and 2015 subject to any FOI exemptions which may apply. Please advise if you would be content to receive what information may be available.

Clarification Received

I would be content with that information.

Answer

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Act I can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does hold information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Please find a table below showing alleged offences committed by children aged 10 and under in the Strabane area in 2014 and 2015.

| | 2014 | 2015 |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| Criminal Damage | 1 | 1 |
| Theft | 1 | 2 |
| Total | 2 | 3 |

Question 2

Can I find out the age of each individual arrested?

Answer

There were no arrests of children aged ten and under in the Strabane District Council area in 2014 or 2015.

Question 3

Can I find out when each crime occurred and if any prosecution was brought? If a prosecution was brought, what was the outcome and where applicable, what sentence was imposed?

Answer

Please see table below showing the year each alleged offence occurred. No prosecutions were brought.

| | 2014 | 2015 |
|-----------------|----------|----------|
| Criminal Damage | 1 | 1 |
| Theft | 1 | 2 |
| Total | 2 | 3 |

Question 4

If a weapon was involved in any of the incidents, can I find out the nature of the weapon?

Answer

No weapons were involved in any of the alleged offences.

Please note a person below the criminal age of responsibility (ten years) cannot commit a criminal offence, therefore cannot be arrested/charged/prosecuted.

In all those instances where a child under 10 years has been detected for behaviour that would otherwise be described as criminal, specially-trained Police Youth Diversion Officers will become involved. Support / intervention programmes will be considered, as well as the notification of statutory partners such as social Services if appropriate, with the agreement and consent of a parent / guardian. Cases will be monitored over a period of time to ensure no further repetition of such behaviour or indeed no further risk is identified to the child or others.

This data is extracted from a live database, which is updated on a daily basis and is therefore subject to change.

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.psnipolice.uk

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