



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2016-00164

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Suspects Under 10

Request and Answer:

Question 1

How many crimes were reported over the last five years where the suspect was under the age of ten? (nine and under)

Please break down in calendar years for:

2011
2012
2013
2014
2015

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.

Guidance

It should be noted that 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 provide a welfare response. 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 parent / guardian. Cases will be monitored over a period of time to ensure no further repetition of such behaviour and no further risk is identified to the child or others.

In the years 2011 – 2015 the number of reports of risk behaviour by children 9 years & under:-

2011 – 18
2012 – 15
2013 – 5
2014 – 10
2015 – 4

N.B. The data above is extracted from a live database which is updated daily and may be subject to change and is dependent on the information being input into the system correctly.

Question 2

In addition to the totals I would be grateful if for the years 2014 and 2015 you could break down the figures by the child's age, and the crime they were reported for.

Answer

Please see the table below on page numbered 1 which gives a breakdown of the figures for 2014 and 2015. To clarify: in both years there was no risk behaviour reported in relation to children under 5 years.

N.B. The data is extracted from a live database which is updated daily and may be subject to change and is dependent on the information being input into the system correctly.

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.

Reported Risk Behaviour By Children 9 Years And Under By Year			
		Year	
Age	Risk Behaviour	2014	2015
6	Theft	1	0
7	Theft	3	0
8	AOABH	1	0
8	Theft	2	1
9	Common Assault	1	3
9	Offensive Weapon	1	0
9	Theft	1	0