



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2016-00469

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Child Abduction and Kidnapping Data

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

I'm writing to you to gather data on police recorded offences of child abduction and kidnapping – for the latest financial year 2015/16.

I'd be very grateful if you could supply the following information:

From 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016, how many crimes\* of child abduction by a parent (Home Office classification^ 13/1) were recorded by PSNI?

#### Question 2

From 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016, how many crimes\* of child abduction by other persons (Home Office classification^ 13/2) were recorded by PSNI?

#### Question 3

From 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016, 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](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/299318/count-violence-april-2014.pdf)

In addition, if the relevant cost limits for this request are not exceeded, I would be very grateful if you could tell me:

#### Question 4

Of the number of offences given at 1 above (child abduction by a parent): how many were attempted abductions and how many were completed abductions?

#### Question 5

Of the number of offences given at 2 above (child abduction by other persons): how many were attempted abductions and how many were completed abductions?

## Question 6

Of the number of offences given at 3 above (child kidnapping): how many were attempted abductions and how many were completed abductions?

### 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 which provides a breakdown of the number of recorded child abduction and attempted child abduction offences, by a parent and by another, for the 2015/16 financial year. This information is based on data extracted from a live crime recording 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.

#### Recorded Child Abduction Offences

| Recorded Offences           | 2015/16 |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| Child abduction (by parent) | 5       |
| <i>Of which attempted</i>   | 0       |
| Child abduction (by other)  | 24      |
| <i>Of which attempted</i>   | 16      |

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch

Please find a table below which provides a breakdown of the number of recorded kidnapping and attempted kidnapping offences, where the victim was aged under 18, for the 2015/16 financial year. This information is based on data extracted from a live crime recording 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.

#### Recorded Kidnapping Offences where the victim was aged under 18 at the time of the offence

| Recorded Offences         | 2015/16 |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Kidnapping                | 8       |
| <i>Of which attempted</i> | 1       |

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch

**Note:** These figures have been extracted from the recorded crime data series and are based on the offence codes used within Northern Ireland that are the equivalent of the Home Office codes listed by the requester:

Home Office Classification: 13/1 – PSNI: 4111009 (child abduction by parent)

Home Office Classification: 13/2 – PSNI: 4111010 (child abduction by other person)

Home Office Classification: 36 – PSNI: 4111001 (kidnapping) and 4111002 (false imprisonment)

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

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