



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2016-01368

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Indecent Photographs or Pseudo-Photographs of Children

### Request and Answer:

#### Question

I wish to obtain the following information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

I wish to know, for each calendar year for the following separate years 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006 and 2005:

- How many individuals have been arrested/ charged or cautioned on suspicion of making, possessing, possessing to show, and distributing indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs of children/ forbidden images of children?
- How many of the suspects were under the age of 18 at the time of their arrest/ charge/ caution?
- How many were prosecuted for the crime?

To clarify, I wish for this information to be provided to me broken down by year, rather than as a total amount for all years.

#### 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 two tables included below which display the requested information on the number of individuals that have been arrested / charged or cautioned on suspicion of making, possessing, possessing to show, and distributing indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs of children / forbidden images of children. Please note that custody records have been recorded on NICHE, the PSNI Record Management System, since 2006 onwards and therefore we are unable to provide the requested information for the year 2005.

This information has been extracted from the custody arrests data from NICHE, please note this includes those persons arrested and processed through police custody. Therefore, those arrested and street bailed or dealt with by other means e.g. discretionary disposal, pnd etc. will not be included in the figures.

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.

Number of Persons Arrested and Charged<sup>2</sup> for Indecent Images Offences<sup>1</sup>

Year	Arrested	Persons under 18 when Arrested	Charged	Persons under 18 when Charged
2006	54	4	14	1
2007	57	4	23	0
2008	63	3	22	0
2009	59	6	18	0
2010	64	4	21	0
2011	72	3	34	0
2012	82	4	41	1
2013	92	1	55	0
2014	99	11	47	1
2015	114	10	32	2

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch

Number of Persons Cautioned<sup>3</sup> and Prosecuted for Indecent Images Offences<sup>1</sup>

Year	Cautioned	Persons under 18 when Cautioned	Prosecuted
2009	0	0	5
2010	1	1	22
2011	2	0	34
2012	1	1	40
2013	2	0	60
2014	3	1	53
2015	7	0	46

Source: ICS Branch

**NOTE:**

<sup>1</sup>Includes following offences:

Possession Of A Prohibited Image Of A Child (Offences From 6 April 2010); Distributing Indecent Photographs Or Pseudo Photographs Of Children; Possession of Indecent/Pseudo Photograph(S) With A View To Distribution; Making Of Indecent Photographs Or Pseudo Photographs Of Children; Possessing An Indecent Photograph Or Pseudo-Photograph Of A Child; Possession Of Photograph Or Pseudo-Photograph(S) Of A Child (From 1.2.09 Child Is <18 Yrs); Taking, Permitting To Be Taken Or Making An Indecent Photograph Or Pseudo Photograph Of A Child; Making Indecent Photographs Or Pseudo Photographs Of Children; Intentionally Encourage Ar Assisting The Commission Of An Offence Of Distributing Or Showing; Indecent Photographs Of Children; Intentionally Encouraging Or Assisting The Making Of Indecent Photographs Or Pseudo; Photographs Of Children; Intentionally Encouraging Or Assisting The Distribution Of Indecent Photographs Or Pseudo Photographs Of Children (From 1.2.09 Child Is <18 Yrs);

<sup>2</sup>Arrested and processed through police custody and subsequently charged

<sup>3</sup>Caution and Prosecution Data is only recorded on PSNI crime recording system from 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009 onwards.

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

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