



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-02370

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Abortion Related Offences

Request and 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.

Request

I would like to access, under Freedom of Information law, the number of arrests for abortion related offences for each of the five years. If possible, I would also like to know the outcome of each case - if the person was prosecuted, convicted etc.

I would also like the gender of each person arrested, if available.

Answer

Offence codes containing the text 'abort' were identified and the legislation checked to confirm they are contained within the OAP Act 1861 S58/59. An additional offence code (4106006) relating to S60 of the legislation was included in the search but no records were identified for the time period requested. A cross check with the offence charge text (where this mentioned the relevant act in legislation).

The following offence codes were retrieved for the time period January 2013 to date: 4106002 (procuring for another an abortion by administering a poison) and 4106008 (procuring own abortion using an instrument)

In the last five years three males have been arrested for abortion related offences. The PPS directed one prosecution and there were no convictions.

Year	Arrests	PPS Decision to Prosecute	Convictions
2013	2	1	0
2014	0	0	0
2015	1	0	0

2016	0	0	0
2017	0	0	0
2018	0	0	0

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.