



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-02234

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Child Drug 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 wish to know the total number of children under the age of 18 who have been arrested for drugs-related offences in the past eight years, divided by financial year (2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-2017, 2017-18)

For each case can you let me know:

- The child's age
- Their gender
- What offence they were arrested for
- The drug or type of drugs involved (if known)

Answers

Please find the data requested provided in the separate spreadsheet, which is based on a data extraction from a live recording system and therefore may be subject to change. It is also dependant on the information having been input into the system in such a way as to identify those records that are relevant.

It should however be noted that due to the information requested being considered as 'low level data' it has been provided in separate uncorrelated tables to alleviate any potential harm and risk.

Please note that "the gender attributed is based on current record on police systems and based on that disclosed to police. Police are unable to confirm the accuracy of such information." The file gender may have been updated since the time of the person's arrest.

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.