



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-02116

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme

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 and the decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Request 1

Please can you tell me how many requests the police force has received, in each year since 2011, to check if an individual has a record that includes child sexual offences. This is the child sex offender disclosure scheme.

Answer

Child Protection Disclosure commenced in Northern Ireland in 2016.

PSNI have received 31 applications to date:

In 2016 – 16 applications

In 2017 – 7 applications

In 2018 – 8 applications as of 31/8/18

Total of 31 applications

Request 2

Please can you tell me how many of these requests have been turned down, granted or are still awaiting a decision in each year since 2011.

Answer

Child Protection Disclosure commenced in Northern Ireland in 2016.

All applications are processed to ensure appropriate safeguarding and thorough checks are carried out. To date, no outstanding decisions to be made and none resulted in disclosure.

Request 3

Against each decision please can you tell me what relation the requester was to the child they were enquiring on behalf of e.g. a mother asking for a care worker to be checked who has contact with her child.

Answer

Of the 31 applications received, the relationship between the applicant and the child is as follows:

Parent - 23

Grandparent - 2

Uncle - 1

Landlord - 2

No children identified by applicant - 3

Total of 31 applications

Request 4

Please can you tell me how many FTE staff members have been working on the child sex offender disclosure scheme in each year since 2011.

Answer

Applications are processed by Public Protection Officers alongside their normal duties.

Request 5

How much of the force's budget has been assigned to the scheme in each year since 2011.

Answer

No additional funding or resources have been allocated to the scheme, as it is managed and administered within the existing PSNI, Public Protection Branch.

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.

