



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2018-01021

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Crimes 2014-2017

### 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 1

I am writing to you to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act: Please could you provide me with figures for the number of crimes reported to your police force which were not subsequently investigated for each of the following years; 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017?

'Not subsequently investigated' can mean crimes which were reported to the police and either 'screened out' for further investigation in line with the Force's Crime Assessment Principles, or where a decision is taken to not investigate a crime or follow-up after an initial assessment.

#### 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.

PSNI has never adopted the volume crime management model used over an extended period of time in many other police services to 'screen' crime. It has however adopted a form of this process between August 2015 and October 2016 for one of our three Policing areas (North) and another policing area (Belfast) from the same date which is still in place now.

For the areas that have been subject to this process, we can only report the number of crimes that generated the automated task designed specifically for this process to the investigating officer to 'conclude' the crime and whether those crimes now have a 'No Further Police Action' status. We cannot confirm if on receipt of the task every crime was concluded as the Investigating officer or their supervisor may have continued to direct enquiries even on receipt of this task.

In addition we are unable to link the offence types that were subject to this process directly to the crime statistics PSNI publish.

Screening out is defined as where there is a relevant workflow task as part of the Case

Assessment process. This process is currently only active for certain Districts. This process has also been active at one point for some Districts but is now inactive in these Districts. Data is included only where the current status is 'Supv - Resulted - Filed Pending Further Evidence/NFPA' but it cannot be concluded that this is a result of the case assessment.

Please see the data provided below:

2014 - 5901

2015 - 14942

2016 – 7554

2017 - 460

**Request 1(a)**

Please could you break this data down into types of crime listed below, so that it shows the figures for the following Offence Groups, Sub-Groups or Offences as per the Home Office Offense Classification Index:

- 1) All Crime
- 2) Violence against the person
  - a) Homicide
  - b) Violence with injury
  - c) Violence without injury
- 3) Sexual Offences
  - a) Rape
  - b) Others sexual offences
- 4) Robbery
  - a) Robbery of personal Property
  - b) Robbery of Business Property
- 5) Burglary
  - a) Burglary – residential
  - b) Burglary – business and community
- 6) Vehicle Offences
  - a) Aggravated Vehicle taking
  - b) Interfering with motor vehicle
  - c) Theft from motor vehicles
  - d) Theft or Taking of Motor vehicle
- 7) Theft
  - a) Bicycle theft
  - b) Other theft
  - c) Shoplifting
  - d) Theft from person
- 8) Arson and Criminal Damage
  - a) Arson
  - b) Criminal damage
- 9) Drug offences
  - a) Drug trafficking
  - b) Possession of Drugs
- 10) Possession of Weapons

- a) Other firearm offenses
  - b) Other knife offences
  - c) Possession of article blade or point
  - d) Possession firearm
  - e) Possession firearm with intent
  - f) Possession other weapons
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- 11) Public Order offences
    - a) Other state offence or public order
    - b) Public fear alarm or distress
    - c) Racist and religious aggravated public fear alarm distress
    - d) Violent disorder

**Answer**

Please see the Excel spreadsheet attached separately to this correspondence, detailing a breakdown of crime type of data provided in Question 1.

**Please note:** The following notes are relevant to the information provided in the Excel spreadsheet.

*Screening out is defined as where there is a relevant workflow task as part of the Case Assessment process. This process is currently only active for certain districts. This process has also been active at one point for some districts but is now inactive in these districts. Data is included only where the current status is 'Supv - Resulted - Filed Pending Further Evidence/NFPA' but it cannot be concluded that this is a result of the case assessment.*

Legacy and Justice Branch has advised that information in relation to Question 1 is contained in the spreadsheet. Information in relation to Question 1(a) can be accessed by comparison of the list provided, against the published crime figures available via our website.

Figures are published on the PSNI website for each financial year 1998/99 to 2015/16. Figures are also updated each month.

Monthly crime figures can be accessed through the spreadsheet document link:

[https://www.psni.police.uk/globalassets/inside-the-psni/our-statistics/police-recorded-crime-statistics/documents/police\\_recorded\\_crime\\_in\\_northern\\_ireland\\_1998-99\\_to\\_2015-16\\_pivot\\_tables\\_crime.xls](https://www.psni.police.uk/globalassets/inside-the-psni/our-statistics/police-recorded-crime-statistics/documents/police_recorded_crime_in_northern_ireland_1998-99_to_2015-16_pivot_tables_crime.xls)

Figures covering the 12 months to 31st January are available from the web page

<https://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/police-recorded-crime-statistics/>

The latest rolling 12 month figures can be obtained from the summary tables while figures for more recent months can be obtained from the data in excel pivot table format.

**Request 2**

For each of these Offence Groups, Sub-Groups or Offences could you provide information on how many crimes were reported to your police force and investigated beyond the initial screening process?

**Answer**

Please see answer to Question 1(a) above

**Request 3**

Please can you provide me with a copy of the assessment criteria used by your police force to

determine whether a reported crime should be investigated further?

**Answer**

Please see attached Word Document which is the generic supervision guidance.

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.