



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-00870

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Crimes Committed by Under 18 year olds

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

I would like to know how many children under the age of 18 have been convicted of crimes in each year since 2014. I request a breakdown of the years from 2014-2018 (inclusive) in terms of how many convictions there were.

Answer

Please see the table below:

Calendar Year	Number of children under 18 who have 1 or more convictions recorded on Niche for given year
2014	274
2015	279
2016	224
2017	207
2018*	101

* Convictions recorded on Niche up to 5 July 2018

Request 2

I would also like to know the age of the youngest person convicted during this time, what year the offence took place and what the nature of their conviction was.

Answer

Age - 12 years old
 Year of offence - 2017
 Nature of conviction - Criminal damage

Please note: There were 5 individuals who were aged 12 at the time of their conviction. The age in days at time of conviction was calculated for these individuals to determine the youngest person.

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.