



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-01220

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Messaging App "Kik"

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

Has the instant messaging app "Kik" ever featured in investigations carried out by your force into online Child Exploitation/Grooming/Child abuse imagery?

Answer

The record owner has advised Kik has featured in investigations carried out by the PSNI into online Child Exploitation/Grooming/Child abuse imagery.

Request 2

How often has Kik appeared in such investigations in the last year (or most recent period available)?

Answer

From 01/07/2017 – 01/07/2018 there has been 11 Investigations when the 'Kik' App formed a part of the investigation.

Request 3

How often has Kik appeared in such investigations in the last 5 years?

Answer

From 01/07/2013 – 01/07/2018 there has been 90 investigations when 'Kik' App formed a part of the investigation.

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.