



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-00007

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Paedophile Hunters

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.

Please could I have the details for the calendar years 2015, 2016, and 2017

Request 1

How many crimes were recorded by the force in the listed years below relating to the offence of 'attempting to cause or incite a child to engage in sexual activity'?

Answer

2015 = 2, 2016 = 1 and 2017 = 1.

Request 2

How many PPA (people proceeded against) were recorded by the force for the offence 'attempting to cause or incite a child to engage in sexual activity'?

Answer

2015 = 1, 2016 = NIL and 2017 = 1.

Request 3

How many of those cases in Q2 used evidence supplied by so called Paedophile Hunters?

Answer

None

Request 4

How many crimes were recorded by the force in the listed years below relating to the offence of 'causing a child to watch sexual activity'?

Answer

2015 = 22, 2016 = 35 and 2017 = 50

Request 5

How many PPA (people proceeded against) were recorded by the force for the offence of 'causing a child to watch sexual activity'?

Answer

2015 = 16, 2016 = 14 and 2017 = 12.

Request 6

How many of those cases in Q5 used evidence supplied by so called Paedophile Hunters?

Answer

None.

Request 7

How many crimes were recorded by the force in the listed years below relating to the offence of 'attempting to meet a child following sexual grooming'?

Answer

2015= 8, 2016 = 8 and 2017 =60.

Request 8

How many PPA (people proceeded against) were recorded by the force for the offence of 'attempting to meet a child following sexual grooming'?

Answer

2015= 4, 2016 = 6 and 2017 = 3.

Request 9

How many of those cases in Q8 used evidence supplied by so called Paedophile Hunters?

Answer

None.

Please note that the Increase in PSNI statistics reflect the overall National Picture :

“ The latest Office of National Statistics identified the following in terms of demand;

- **20%** increase in recorded sexual offences from 2015/2016
- **31%** increase in 'sexual activity involving a child under 16'
- **51%** increase in the offence of 'sexual grooming'
- Projected **80% increase** in child protection investigations from 2012 to 2020, as cited in CC Simon Bailey's report in 2017

'National Crime Coordination Committee - Investigative Resilience Programme 13th December 2017'

Agencies are now more focussed on exploitation (both on line and off line) which has significantly increased demand for investigations Public Protection Unit (PPU)

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.psnipolice.uk

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.