



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-00626

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Reported Incidents of Rape

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

How many reported incidents of rape were recorded in your police force between January and December 2017?

Answer

Between 1st January and 31st December 2017 there were 953 offences of rape recorded by the police and included in the published police recorded crime figures.

Request 2

How many of these were subsequently given C2 AVI cancellations?

Answer

There were 5 reports of rape or attempted rape made during 2017 which have since been cancelled using the C2 criteria (additional verifiable information that determines that no notifiable crime occurred becomes available). Please note that these 5 reports are not included in the figure of 953 provided in Q1. The figure of 5 is provisional as it is possible that other crimes recorded during this time period may yet be cancelled.

Request 3

What constitutes additional verifiable information in the case of reported incidents of rape?

Answer

PSNI follows the Home Office Counting Rules – guidance on crime cancellation is provided through the web link <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counting-rules-for-recorded-crime>. See Crime recording general rules Section C.

Request 4

If your police force records cases as "unfounded", how many reported incidents of rape are given this classification?

Answer

As per question 2, PSNI do not record "unfounded" as a classification, however C2 AVI mirrors this.

Request 5

What is the mean number of overall reported crime incidents given the classification of "unfounded"?

Answer

As of 29/05/18 there were 5,367 offences recorded during 2017 which have since been cancelled using the C2 AVI criteria and removed from the police recorded crime figures (these cancellations are not included in the published police recorded crime figures). This figure is provisional as it is possible that other crimes recorded during this time period may yet be cancelled.

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.