



# FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2018-00267

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Sexual Offences at a Hospital, Surgery or Medical Centre

**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 make a FOI Act request please. It relates to the number of sexual offences reported to your police force where the location of the alleged offence is in a hospital, surgery or medical centre. I would like to know the number of sexual offences reported to have taken place in hospitals, surgeries or medical centres over the past three years please.

- How many reports of sexual offences were recorded to have taken place in hospitals, surgeries or medical centres over the last year please? (2017, or 2016-17, or however statistics are reported).
- How many reports of sexual offences were recorded to have taken place in hospitals, surgeries or medical centres in the year 2016 (or 2015-16).
- How many reports of sexual offences were recorded to have taken place in hospitals, surgeries or medical centres in the year 2015 (or 2014-15).

**Request 2**

If you are also able to add in a breakdown of the type of sexual offences recorded in hospitals, surgeries or medical centres that would also be helpful please.

**Answer**

Please see the table below detailing the number and type of sexual offences recorded by PSNI for 2014/2015 to 2016/2017 where occurrence location is Medical – hospital, mental health unit or surgery/health centre.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Rape	2	3	10
Sexual assault	44	41	32
Sexual activity	2	2	1
Exposure/voyeurism	6	7	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>56</b>

***The following notes are applicable to the data provided.***

The location has been identified based on crime recorded on PSNI systems where the occurrence MO location is 'Medical' and where the MO location subtype is 'Hospital, mental health unit or surgery/health centre'. Each record has not been manually checked to establish whether or not the offence actually took place inside the specified location. It is possible that offences may have occurred outside the location (e.g. in the car park) or may have occurred within the vicinity of the location.

Sexual offences where the MO location is Medical and the MO Location subtype is dental surgery, hospice, other (medical) or is blank have been excluded from the response. Crimes of sexual violence occurring at hospitals where the MO location was not input as 'hospital, mental health unit or surgery/health centre' will not be included in this response.

***Please note:*** This information is based on data extracted from a live crime recording system and may be subject to change. It is dependent on the information having been input into the system in such a way as to identify those records that are relevant. Data was extracted on 6th April 2018.

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.psnipolice.uk](http://www.psnipolice.uk)

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