



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-00871

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Sex Offenders

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 people on the sex offenders' register in Northern Ireland that the PSNI do not know the whereabouts of.

Answer

In relation to the number of registered sexual offenders whose whereabouts are unknown, PSNI has as of the date of your request, 4 RSOs currently recorded as wanted because their whereabouts are unknown. This total is only valid for the date in question because the information is dynamic and will change as arrests are made or new cases come to light through proactive intelligence led policing or routine visits to registered offenders.

Within Northern Ireland there are a total of 1,507 offenders subject to notification requirements. The whereabouts of all but four of these is known and the individuals are fully compliant with notification procedures.

The UK, including Northern Ireland, has some of the most effective tools in the world, including multi-agency working, to manage those offenders subject to the notification requirements under the Sexual Offences Act 2003. While the reality is that a small number of individual offenders will fail to comply with their notification requirements, there is no doubt that the multi-agency approach of the Public Protection Arrangements NI (PPANI), whereby agencies work together to assess and manage the risk posed by relevant offenders, keeps the number whose whereabouts are unknown to an absolute minimum.

Request 2

I would also like to know how long the whereabouts of these individuals have been unknown and what jurisdiction, if known, these individuals may now be residing.

Answer

February 2013, March 2017, April 2017 and November 2017.

It should be noted that Police have received information regarding all 4 persons regarded as “missing” to suggest that they have travelled to different jurisdictions. In the absence of a confirmed address in the destination country, PSNI still maintain their record until such times as confirmation of address is received.

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.