



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2018-00084

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Sexual Grooming

### 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

For the calendar year 2017 (1/1/17-31/12/17) please can you tell me how many people were charged by your force for meeting a child following sexual grooming contrary to section 15 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

#### Answer

3 people were arrested and subsequently charged with the offence of meeting a child following sexual grooming in the requested time period (1 January - 31 December 2017)

#### Request 2

How many people were charged by your force for attempting to meet a child following sexual grooming contrary to section 1(1) of the Criminal Attempts Act 1981.

#### Answer

5 people were arrested and subsequently charged with the offence of attempting to meet a child following sexual grooming in the requested time period (1 January - 31 December 2017).

#### Request 3

Of the total number from answer 1 added to answer 2 (so the total number of people charged with meeting a child plus those charged with attempting to meet a child) how many were charged based on some or all evidence provided by what are commonly known as vigilante paedophile hunter groups.

By that I mean any member of the public who acts as independent investigator to target people who use the internet to meet or attempt to meet children for sexual reasons.

#### Answer

2 people were charged based on some or all evidence provided by what are commonly known as vigilante paedophile hunter groups.

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.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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