



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2018-00170

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Paedophile Hunter' / Vigilantes

### 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

Have any arrests been made in relation to paedophile hunters operating in Northern Ireland where the person arrested has been a member of the hunter 'gang'?

#### Answer

Yes, arrests have been made in relation to paedophile hunters operating in Northern Ireland.

#### Request 2

If yes, how many arrests have been made?

#### Answer

11 people have been arrested.

#### Request 3

What offence was the reason for arrest?

#### Answer

The offences were false imprisonment, assault Intimidation and attempted intimidation.

#### Request 4

Have any cases been sent to the PPS for investigation?

#### Answer

11 cases are pending.

#### Request 5

It has been reported that groups 'hunting' have received information from the PSNI in relation to securing convictions / how to operate. If this has been issued by PSNI, can you provide a copy?

**Answer**

No such guidance was sent to online activist groups by PSNI. The PSNI did request specific evidence from activist groups in relation to their previous involvement in a number of specific incidents, so that police could progress the investigation to the evidential standard required by PPS.

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.