

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2022-00341

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Injuries to Children Under 18

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.

Clarification from requester

"I am seeking information about all reports of "violence against a person" and "sexual offences" where the victim is a child under the age of 18.' For question 1c, please can violent offences be grouped together separately from sexual offences so that it is possible to distinguish between them."

Request 1a

How many reports of injury to a child under 18 were reported in total to the force between 1 Jan 2020 and 31 December 2021? Please can I have the data broken down by month and year.

Request 1b

Please indicate where these reports were tagged as a domestic incident or having happened within a domestic setting.

Request 1c

Please can you specify the initial classification of the crime type (including offence classification code) and what the outcome was for all the reports e.g. charge, no action

Request 1d

Of the above, please can you also provide a breakdown of the reports by type of injury, ethnicity, and the age groups 0-4, 5-9, 10-14, 15-17. Please prioritise age groups or skip this question and move to question 2 if it will exceed the time limit.

Request 2a

How many reports of injury to a child under 18 were reported in total to the force in the calendar years 2018 and 2019? Please can I have the data broken down by year.

Request 2b

Please indicate where these reports were tagged as a domestic incident.

Answer

Please see attached Excel Spreadsheet.

The provided spreadsheet contains a number of tables based on all recorded Violence Against the Person and Sexual offences where the victim was aged under 18, in each calendar year 2018 - 2021. Separate tables for the number of offences, outcomes, level of injury, ethnicity and age band, broken down by calendar year, for both Violence Against the Person offences and Sexual offences have been included.

Violence Against the Person and Sexual offences may result in a range of injuries of varying levels of severity. They may also result in no injury at all.

Please note: Changes can be expected to figures from 1st April 2021 as records are subject to ongoing validation and quality assurance processes until publication in May 2022; annual revisions to previously published financial year figures may also be applied at this time.

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 Corporate Information Branch, 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 Corporate Information Branch, 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 remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, 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', or use the ICO self-service portal available at www.ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/officialinformation-concerns-report/official-information-concern/

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 their 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.