

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2022-01005

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Crimes Committed By Children Under 10

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.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, please can you provide me the following information for the following years: 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021?

Request 1

How many crimes have been recorded by your force which are suspected to have been committed by children aged under 10 (below the age of criminal responsibility)

Request 2

A breakdown of the crimes suspected to have been committed by children aged under 10 (below the age of criminal responsibility)

Request 3

A breakdown of ages and genders of suspects aged under 10 (below the age of criminal responsibility) associated with committing crimes

Answer

Please see attached Excel Spreadsheet.

Please note the following in conjunction with the data provided:

- A person may have been arrested on more than one occasion; hence the number in the offence table is greater than the number of persons arrested by age.
- The principal offence is determined by the Department of Justice (DOJ) algorithm methodology as PSNI do not hold an offence classification for custody offences. The information provided is provisional and subject to change

<https://www.niacro.co.uk/age-criminal-responsibility>

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.