

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2021-00101

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Revenge Porn

Request and Answer:

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Act we 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

From April 2015, to the most recent data available, split into 6 month intervals. The number of cases of revenge porn crimes recorded under Home Office code 008/71 Disclosure of private sexual photographs and films with intent to cause distress, reported to your force.

a) The data broken down by age group of the victims - 0-10, 11-15, 16-20, 21-30, 31-40, 41-50, 51-60, 60+.

Request 2

What was the outcome for these cases (i.e charged/summonsed, cases pending, caution, case dropped etc).

I would like the above information to be provided to me as electronic copies, preferably in a spreadsheet.

Answer

Please see the Excel spreadsheet attached separately to this correspondence.

The following notes are applicable to the data provided

Police recorded crime figures are compiled according to Home Office guidance set out in the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime. Under this guidance, circumstances relating to 'revenge porn' where the victim is aged under 18 will most likely to be recorded as an obscene publication offence.

Figures are provided from 2016 as these offences were enacted in Northern Ireland under the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 and no offences were recorded prior to April 2016.

Information is extracted from recorded crime data series for offence of disclosing private sexual photographs and film with intention to cause distress. Police recorded crime figures are compiled

according to Home Office guidance set out in the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime. Under this guidance, circumstances relating to 'revenge porn' where the victim is aged under 18 will most likely to be recorded as an obscene publication offence. Figures are provided from 2016 as these offences were enacted in Northern Ireland under the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 and no offences were recorded prior to April 2016. Please note that figures from 1st April 2020 are provisional and subject to change. Outcome figures are subject to revisions, as investigations are completed and as outcomes continue to be assigned.

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 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.