

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2021-00780

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Children & Domestic Abuse

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. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Request

Please provide information for the request based on all recorded Homicide, Violence With Injury and Violence without Injury offences with a domestic abuse motivation, where the victim was aged under 18, during the period 2019 -2020. These cover the months in which the offences occurred, the age and gender of the victim, the severity of injury to the victim and the type of weapon/force used in the offence.

Answer

Please see the Excel spreadsheet, attached separately to this correspondence.

Please note: Changes can be expected to figures from 1st April 2020 as records are subject to ongoing validation and quality assurance processes until publication in May 2021; annual revisions to previously published financial year figures may also be applied at this time.

The tables provided are based on all recorded Homicide, Violence With Injury and Violence without Injury offences with a domestic abuse motivation, where the victim was aged under 18, during the period 2019 - 2020. The tables present information on the month of each offence, the age and gender of the victim (the 'Gender Unknown' category may include persons who have not identified as either male or female), the level of severity of injury to the victim and the weapon/type of force used in the offence.

Notes applicable to the Data

Definition: Domestic Abuse

The PSNI has adopted the definition of domestic abuse as outlined in the Northern Ireland Government Strategy 'Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse in Northern Ireland' as:

'threatening, controlling, coercive behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, virtual, physical,

verbal, sexual, financial or emotional) inflicted on anyone (irrespective of age, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or any form of disability) by a current or former intimate partner or family member’.

The following will assist in the application of this definition:

(a) ‘Incident’ means an incident anywhere and not confined to the home of one of the partners/family members;

(b) ‘Family members’ include mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister, grandparents, whether directly or indirectly related, in-laws or stepfamily.

(c) ‘Intimate partners’ means there must have been a relationship with a degree of continuity and stability. The relationship must also have had (or reasonably supposed to have had) a sexual aspect, such as in the relationship between husband and wife or between others generally recognised as a couple including same sex couples.

What is a domestic abuse incident or domestic abuse crime as recorded by the police?

Police recorded crime data is a victim oriented approach to crime recording. A crime will be recorded as having a domestic abuse motivation where it meets the relevant definition provided above. Not all domestic abuse incidents will result in the recording of a crime, as what has occurred in the incident may not be of the level of severity that would result in a crime being recorded. Where crimes with a domestic abuse motivation are recorded, they are classified according to the Home Office Counting Rules and form a subset of the overall police recorded crime statistics.

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.

