



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2020-00967

**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 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

Please could you reveal how many crime reports of “revenge porn” or “image based sexual abuse” or “intimate image abuse” (distributing private sexual image of someone without their consent and with the intention of causing them distress) have been made since the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020?

Please could you break down the numbers by weekly periods, if possible.

#### Answer

For the period from 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2020, there have been a total of 13 crimes recorded.

This information has been provided as an overall total as it is not possible to breakdown to weekly periods as to do so would incur FOI exemptions.

#### Request 2

Please could you reveal how many people have been charged with the offence of “Revenge Porn” since the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020?

Please break down this figure to show how many people received cautions.

#### Answer

Since 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, 1 person has been charged with the offence of ‘disclosing private sexual photographs and film with intent to cause distress’.

In this period there have been no persons cautioned with the offence of ‘disclosing private sexual photographs and film with intent to cause distress’.

#### Request 3

Please could you break down the victims of “revenge porn” since the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 by gender and into the following age groups 0-9, 10-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59 and 60+?

#### Answer

Please find the responses provided for gender and the age groups in the uncorrelated table below,

as the information is considered to be low level data and to ensure that a person cannot be identified.

		23.03.20
		-
		17.05.20
Gender	Female	10
	Male	3
Age	0-9	0
	10-19	3
	20-29	2
	30-39	4
	40-49	3
	50-59	1
	60+	0
	Total crimes recorded	13

#### Request 4

Please could you provide how many crime reports of “revenge porn” or “image based sexual abuse” or “intimate image abuse” (distributing private sexual image of someone without their consent and with the intention of causing them distress) have been made in the same complete period as you are able provide for (1) for the years 2019, 2018 and 2017.

Please could you break down the victims of “revenge porn” during these periods by gender and into the following age groups 0-9, 10-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59 and 60+.

#### Answer

Please find the responses provided in the uncorrelated table below, as the information is considered to be low level data and to ensure that a person cannot be identified.

		23.03.17	23.03.18	23.03.19
		-	-	-
		17.05.17	17.05.18	17.05.19
Gender	Female	5	3	9
	Male	2	2	0
Age	0-9	0	0	0
	10-19	2	0	2
	20-29	3	4	2
	30-39	0	1	3
	40-49	1	0	2
	50-59	1	0	0
	60+	0	0	0
Total crimes recorded		7	5	9

#### Request 5

Please could you provide how many crime reports of “revenge porn” or “image based sexual abuse” or “intimate image abuse” (distributing private sexual image of someone without their consent and with the intention of causing them distress) have been made in the last 5 years, broken down by year.

## Answer

Please find in the table the crimes recorded for each financial year from 2016/ 17 – 2019/20:

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Crimes recorded	24	31	42	77

Please note the following in conjunction with the information 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 be recorded as an obscene publication offence as in responses to request numbers 3 and 4.

Figures are provided from 2016/ 17 , as these offences were enacted in N Ireland under the Justice Act (N Ireland) 2016 and no offences were recorded prior to April 2016.

Please note that figures from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 are provisional and subject to change.

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](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.psnipolice.uk](http://www.psnipolice.uk)

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.