



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Request Number: F-2020-02039

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Revenge Porn or Image Based Sexual 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 and the decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Request 1

How many crime reports of 'revenge porn' or 'image-based sexual abuse' have been made to the force during the years (a) 2015, (b) 2016, (c) 2017, (d) 2018, (e) 2019, (f) 2020 – to date.

Request 2

Please could you break down these crime reports by gender.

Answer

The following information falls under Section 51(1) of the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2016; this is the equivalent legislation in Northern Ireland to Section 33(1) of the Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015.

Please see the table below detailing recorded offences of 'Disclosing private sexual photographs and film with intent to cause distress' by gender.

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.

Gender	Year				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	1 Jan - 31 Oct 2020
Female	11	26	30	60	63
Male	5	7	4	7	8
Total	16	33	34	67	71

Figures from 1st April 2020 are provisional and subject to change.

Please note: 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.

Request 3

How many people have been charged with an offence under section 33(1) of the Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015.

Answer

There were 22 persons charged for offence of 'Disclosing private sexual photographs and film with intent to cause distress' under Section 51(1) of the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2016, from 1 April 2016 - 31 October 2020.

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.