



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2023-00810

Keyword: Crime/Incident Statistics Cyber Crime

Subject: Crimes Involving Online Computer Games

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 1

The number of reports of crimes involving online computer games in the past five calendar years, including updated data recorded in the 2022/23 calendar year - broken down by calendar year.

Clarification from requester:

Using the key words 'Roblox', 'Fortnite', 'Clash of Clans', 'world of Warcraft', 'Minecraft' and 'FIFA', the number of reports of crimes involving online computer games in the past five calendar years, as well as updated data in the calendar year 2023 - broken down by calendar year.

Request 2

The category of offence under which the report was logged - for example sexual activity of a child under 13.

Request 3

Details of each alleged crime including the age and sex of the perpetrator(s) and victim(s) and the name of the game on which the alleged offence took place.

Request 4

The number of arrests and charges in the last five calendar years to the present day - broken down year on year.

Answer

Please see the accompanying Excel file containing the answers to your requests.

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 Corporate Information Manager, Corporate Information Branch, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing foi@psni.police.uk.

If, following an Internal Review carried out by an independent decision maker, you remain unhappy about how your request has been handled you have the right to apply in writing to the Information Commissioner, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, at 'Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. There are a number of other platforms you can use to contact the ICO and these can be found on the ICO's website at the following link: [Make a complaint | ICO \(https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/\)](https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/).

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.