



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: FOI-2023-01386

Keyword: Crime/Incident Statistics Sexual Offences

Subject: 'Sarah's Law' Applications

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

Please consider this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I would like to request the following information:

How many applications have been made to the force under the Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme, often referred to as Sarah's Law, during the following years:

2022
2021
2020
2019
2018
2017
2016
2015
2014
2013
2012
2011
2010

Request 2

For each of the above years, please state how many disclosures about registered sex offenders have been made by the force?

Answer 1 & 2

Please see the table below providing to the answer to requests 1 and 2. Please note, The Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme, often referred to as Sarah's Law is known in Northern Ireland as The Child Protection Disclosure Scheme (CPDS). The process was not implemented until March 2016 and so no data can be provided from 2010 until March 2016.

Child Protection Disclosure Scheme		
	Number of Applications	Number of Disclosures (Regarding Registered Sex Offenders)
2016	16	0
2017	7	0
2018	14	0
2019	12	0
2020	25	1
2021	42	3
2022	56	6
Total	172	10

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.psnipolice.uk

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