



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2023-01598

Keyword: Crime/Incident Statistics Sexual Offences

Subject: Sexual Offences

Request and Answer:

Your request for information has now been considered and we are not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

Request

Please may you provide me with:

The number of sexual offences recorded by this force each year from 2016 to 2021 inclusive, broken down by outcome (NFA, under investigation, unable to prosecute, community order, charge/summons etc) and, if possible, how many of the offences each year resulted in a conviction.

For the avoidance of doubt, by sexual offence I mean all types of sexual offences committed against both adults and children,
Please provide the information in a spreadsheet.

Answer

Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states the fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The following exemption has been applied:

Section 21 - Information Reasonably Accessible by Other Means

The information you request may be located on the PSNI website.

The number of sexual offences recorded in Northern Ireland is published on the PSNI website, <https://www.psni.police.uk/about-us/our-publications-and-reports/official-statistics/police-recorded-crime-statistics>. The latest figures have been published in the financial year update, period ending 31 March 2023, with the full data series 1998/99 to 2022/23 available in Table 14 of the accompanying excel spreadsheet.

Information on outcomes that have since been applied to sexual offences is also published on the PSNI website and is available through the same link as provided above. The relevant publication is the Outcomes of Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland 2015/16 to 2021/22 (published 30 November 2022), with information on outcomes for sexual offences available in Table 2.2 of the accompanying spreadsheet.

Figures on convictions for sexual offences are published by the Department of Justice, <https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics-and-research/prosecution-and-conviction-statistics#toc-2>. This website includes publications covering the time period requested.

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 email.

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.