



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2023-01891

Keyword: Crime/Incident Statistics Sexual Offences

Subject: Possession of Child Pornography

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

I would like to request the following pieces of information: The number of arrests (per) month in 2023 for possession of child pornography?

Request 2

The number of arrests annually since 2012 for possession of children pornography?

Answer to Requests 1 and 2

Number of arrests¹ for indecent image/pseudo photographs of children from January 2012 – May 2023, include the following offences: making, possessing, distributing indecent/pseudo photographs.

Arrests¹ for indecent image offences (2012-2022)

Year	Number of arrests
2012	75
2013	88
2014	88
2015	107
2016	133
2017	175
2018	147
2019	113
2020	110
2021	127
2022	115

Arrests¹ for indecent image offences (January - May 2023)

Month	Number of arrests
January	6
February	7
March	8
April	5
May	10

¹ Arrested and processed through police custody

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.