

## **PBNI FOI Disclosure log – Response to Request**

Request reference: 023.04.14

Date of Request: 16 Jan 2014

Date of Responses: 24 January, 5 February, 26 February and 4 March 2014 final (Clarification received with additional queries 14 February 2014)

### **Request**

From your published accounts as I understand it, there were 125 sex offenders in 2011, 124 sex offenders in 2012 and 129 sex offenders on probation in 2013.

Please provide me with the following information under FOI

- How many sex offenders 2011-2013 were internet sex offenders for each year?
- Out of the total number of internet sex offenders 2011-2014 what percentage re-offended? i.e. the same/similar internet sex offence (Please do not confuse this with a breach of SOPO conditions)
- Out of the total number of internet sex offenders 2011-2014, what percentage went on to commit a sex offence? (non internet)
- Please provide a copy of the Equality scheme for PBNI.

### **Response**

**(24 Jan 2014)**

The statistics you have quoted from PBNI's Annual Report and Accounts 2012-2013, in respect of 'sex offenders on probation' for the years 2011, 2012, and 2013 refer to the number of orders (in custody and the community) at the end of the respective financial years, where the offender is subject to an Article 26 licence and not, as you have interpreted, as the number of sex offenders on probation.

PBNI can provide you with the number of participants in PBNI's internet sex offender programme (I-SOTP) in this period. The I-SOTP is a treatment programme aimed at offenders who have been convicted of offences which involved the viewing, making, possession and/or distribution of indecent images of children through the medium of electronic communication (including mobile devices e.g. phones, i-phones).

This does not equate to all individuals who were subject to probation supervision for such offences. Assessment of suitability for any programme will depend on risk and need assessments which are completed on an individual basis.

In respect of your questions 2 and 3, relating to the percentage of sex offenders who have reoffended for an 'internet sex offence' or any other type of sexual offence, PBNI does not currently hold reconviction data. You should contact the Department of Justice, Analytical Services Group, Knockview Buildings, Stormont Estate, Belfast BT4 3SX who may be able to advise you.

**Response (5 Feb 2014)**

[PBNI's equality](#) scheme is enclosed as requested. (This is also available on the PBNI's [website](#)).

**Response (26 February 2014)**

**Point 1. Why are you only reporting sex offenders who are subject to an Article 26 Licence when there are sex offenders who are not subject to an Article 26 but are on Probation?**

PBNI caseload statistics are reported on a point-in-time basis by the type of sentence given at court.

PBNI can provide you with the number of people under supervision at the end of 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13 financial years who were recorded as having committed a sexual offence.

**Point 2. Why can PBNI not provide the total number of internet sex offenders for the time periods specified regardless if they are eligible for I-SOTP (the Internet Sex Offender Treatment Programme), or not.**

There is no specific offence known as 'internet sex offence'.

PBNI can provide you with the number of offenders under supervision at the end of the 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13 financial years, who were recorded as having committed an offence involving the possession/copying/taking/distribution of indecent/ pseudo photographs.

**Point 3. Why can you not provide reconviction data given that sex offenders are continually and regularly monitored whilst on probation etc. Please advise as to what data you maintain on sex offenders and how do you keep track of increasing/decreasing risk or even how sex offenders might exit or re-enter probation.**

PBNI does not centrally record reconviction information on its system in a way that would make the analysis required possible. The responsibility for the production of statistics on reconviction/reoffending for those released from custody or serving a community sentence rests with the Department of Justice (details previously provided). The data we maintain and can provide, is as outlined at Point 1 and Point 2.

Risk assessment is a core element of PBNI's supervision of offenders, including sex offenders. PBNI uses a range of validated risk assessment tools to assess and review risk and whether this is increasing or decreasing. The commencement and termination dates of probation orders/supervision are determined by court sentencing. Most sex offenders supervised by PBNI have been convicted and sentenced by courts to periods of imprisonment and subsequently released on supervised licence. Supervision will continue until the termination date of the licence, or in the case of community orders, the termination date set by the court.

**Response: (4 March 2014)**

At the end of the last three financial years, the number of people on the PBNI caseload (under supervision in the community and in custody) who were recorded as having committed a sexual offence is as follows:

<b>Financial Year (as at 31 March)</b>	<b>Number of people</b>
2010/11	425
2011/12	400
2012/13	460

PBNI clarified (26 February 2014) that there is no specific offence known as 'internet sex offence'. At the end of the last three financial years, the number of people on the PBNI caseload (under supervision in the community and in custody) who were recorded as having committed an offence involving the possession/ taking/ copying/ distribution of indecent/ pseudo photographs is as follows:

<b>Financial Year (as at 31 March)</b>	<b>Number of people</b>
2010/11	54
2011/12	55
2012/13	68

If you have any queries about this letter, or if you feel we have misinterpreted your request please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way PBNI has handled your request, you may ask for an internal review using our complaints procedure. A complaints leaflet is enclosed. If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office,  
Wycliffe House,  
Water Lane,  
Wilmslow,  
Cheshire,  
SK9 5AF.

Please note that PBNI publishes responses to requests for information on its website where we believe there may be a wider public interest. If requests are published they are anonymised i.e. details of the requester are not published.

