

PBNI FOI Disclosure log – Response to Request

Request reference: 023.15.14
Date of Request: 7 March 2014
Date of Response: 27 March 2014

Request

Please forward me a list of all policies and procedures used by PBNI in the management of sex offenders. I would like to understand how PBNI manages sex offenders currently on probation/licence.

Response

I would refer you, at the outset, to **PBNI's Best Practice Framework incorporating NI Standards**.

This document sets out the standards that PBNI adopts and maintains, to ensure effective practice with offenders (and victims) in the supervision of all Orders and Licences. These can be accessed on www.pbni.org.uk

The management of sex offenders is also informed by legislation e.g. the Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 2008, Part 3 para 49 (1) refers to risk management across relevant agencies of which PBNI is one. The assessment and management of the risk posed by, for example, relevant sexual offenders is a legislative requirement under Articles 50-52 of that Order and the accompanying Public Protection Arrangements for Northern Ireland (PPANI) as set out in Guidance issued by the Secretary of State (2008). See www.publicprotectionni.com. The PPANI manual of practice will also inform PBNI's management and supervision and this is available on the PPANI website.

The Sexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 provides for civil orders such as the Sexual Offences Prevention Order (SOPO). The latter will set out restrictions and conditions which must be followed on an individual basis and in some cases notification arrangements. Whilst this is administered by the PSNI, it will also inform PBNI's management of that individual if they are also subject to a statutory supervision order.

PBNI assesses and manages the offender on an individual basis and apart from what is required by law, will monitor and review how that person is supervised on an ongoing basis and in accordance with PBNI standards. This will vary depending on the level of risk posed, and whether during the course of supervision that level of risk changes whether increasing or decreasing.

The following PBNI policies/procedures are not directly about the management of sex offenders (or offenders) per se but are relevant to and inform PBNI practice, in conjunction with the documents outlined above, in respect of the management of risk and assessment and supervision of the offender including sex offenders:

- Risk of Serious Harm Policy and Procedures.
- Child Protection Policy and Procedures.
- Disclosure of Information regarding the commission of an offence policy and procedures.
- Domestic Violence and Abuse Policy and Procedures

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

If it would help your understanding, I can also arrange for you to talk directly to, or meet with an operational colleague, with knowledge of this particular area of probation. Please advise if you would like me to pursue this.

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.

