

Our Ref: 006517/12



Freedom of Information Section
Nottinghamshire Police HQ
Sherwood Lodge, Arnold
Nottingham NG5 8PP

Tel: 101
Ext 800 2507
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4 December 2012

Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

I write in connection with your request for information, which was received by Nottinghamshire Police on 8 November 2012.

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Nottinghamshire Police to locate the information you require.

Please find below answers to your questions:-

RESPONSE

Under S 1 (1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), I can confirm that Nottinghamshire Police does hold some of the information you have requested.

How many allegations did your force receive relating to offences of possessing, downloading or distributing indecent images of children last year (April 2011- March 2012)?

Although Nottinghamshire Police do record all allegations made to the Force, the recording of these allegations can be worded in a number of differing ways. There is no standardised category upon which to search all reports made to Nottinghamshire Police which would return all allegations made regarding the possessing of indecent images of children. To do so would require a number of searches to be made using different 'keywords' which would not yield entirely accurate results. Therefore, in order to assist you, we have searched recorded crimes of possessing indecent images of children to provide the requested information, however, it should be noted that not all allegations lead to a crime being recorded and therefore the below figures will

not be an accurate indicator of all allegations Nottinghamshire Police have received of this nature.

During the period stipulated, 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012, Nottinghamshire Police recorded 28 crimes of possessing, downloading or distributing indecent images of children.

How many people were investigated for offences of possessing, downloading or distributing indecent images of children by your force last year (April 2011- March 2012)?

The 28 crimes which were recorded involved 29 individual suspects. It should be noted that one crime can involve several suspects and there can be multiple crimes of the same nature involving the same suspect.

Of that number how many were:

1) arrested?

There were 55 arrests for the offence of possessing, downloading or distributing indecent images during the period stated.

Arrest statistics are recorded separately to crime records. In this instance there are more arrests than recorded crimes. This could be due to the initial crime being recorded differently to the offence the individual was later arrested for. For example, a crime may be recorded as 'Sexual activity with a child' but the individual may also or alternatively have been arrested for possessing indecent images.

2) dealt with by police caution?

In the 28 recorded crimes of possessing, downloading or distributing indecent images of children found, five individuals were given Police cautions.

3) NFAed?

In the 28 recorded crimes of possessing, downloading or distributing indecent images of children found, five individuals were no further actioned by Nottinghamshire Police. This does not include individuals who were charged by Nottinghamshire Police and subsequently no further actioned at Court.

4) charged with offences of possessing, downloading or distributing indecent images of children?

In the 28 recorded crime of possessing, downloading or distributing indecent images of children found, sixteen individuals were charged by Nottinghamshire Police. It should be noted that an individual can be charged with multiple counts of the same offence.

5) convicted of offences of possessing, downloading or distributing indecent images of children?

11 individuals connected with the 28 recorded crimes of possessing, downloading and distributing indecent images of children found to be recorded, have been convicted at Court of these offences.

Please note that some arrests may still be pending an outcome.

How many people suspected of possessing, downloading or distributing indecent images of children last year (April 2011 - March 2012) were written to rather than arrested?

None.

Complaints Rights

Your attention is drawn to the enclosed review procedure, which details your right of complaint.

Copyright

Nottinghamshire Police in complying with their statutory duty under Sections 1 and 11 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) to release the enclosed information will not breach the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. However, the rights of the copyright owner of the enclosed information will continue to be protected by law. Applications for the copyright owner's written permission to reproduce any part of the attached information should be addressed to the Force Solicitor, Nottinghamshire Police, Force Headquarters, Sherwood Lodge, Arnold, Nottinghamshire, NG5 8PP.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Nottinghamshire Police.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please write or contact the Freedom of Information Officer on telephone number 0115 9672507 or e-mail freedomofinformation@Nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

Disclosure Officer

Are you dissatisfied with your response?

If so, prior to lodging a formal complaint, you are welcome and encouraged to discuss the decision with the case officer that dealt with your request.

Ask to have the decision looked at again

The quickest and easiest way to have the decision reconsidered is to telephone the case officer that is identified at the end of your decision letter.

That person will be able to discuss the decision, explain any issues and assist with any problems.

Formal Independent Review

If you are dissatisfied with the handling procedures or the decision made by Nottinghamshire Police under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, you can request an Independent Review.

Upon receipt for a review of the initial request response, an independent audit officer from Information Management will review the request and assess whether it has been satisfactorily processed in accordance with policy and procedure.

Requests for Independent Reviews requests should be made in writing to-

Force Information Manager
Nottinghamshire Police
Force Headquarters
Sherwood Lodge
Arnold
Nottingham
NG5 8PP

The Audit officer will record and communicate his/her decision to the information requester within 20 working days.

Appeals

If the findings of the formal independent review do not meet your approval, you can register an appeal against the decision.

An investigation will then take place by the Freedom of Information officer, which will be reported and presented to the Internal Appeal Board. This will include a full account of the reasoning for or against disclosure and the application of any relevant exemptions.

The Internal Appeal Board will consist of at least a member of the Chief Officer Team, a member of the Legal Team and the Force Information Manager.

Appeals should be registered in writing to:

Freedom of Information Officer
Nottinghamshire Police
Force Headquarters
Sherwood Lodge
Arnold
Nottingham
NG5 8PP

Alternatively E-mail: Freedomofinformation@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

Or call: 01159672507

Applications to the Information Commissioner

If you then remain dissatisfied, you may make an application to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

For information on how to make an application to the Information Commissioner, please visit their website at www.informationcommisioner.gov.uk

Alternatively, Write to:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Or call: 01625 545700.