



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2022-00699

**Keyword:** Operational Policing

**Subject:** Police Involvement with abuse in care settings in NI

### Request and Answer:

#### Request 1

The full text within ALL relevant PSNI policies / procedures that PSNI use when deciding to investigate or NOT investigate abuse within care homes or any care settings, or any collusion by any organisation which protects abusers and leaves vulnerable people at high risk.

#### Request 2

Where are the circumstances when PSNI do act and others where they don't?

#### 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 PSNI service instruction for 'Adult Safeguarding' can be located on the below link:

<https://www.psni.police.uk/globalassets/advice--information/our-publications/policies-and-service-procedures/adult-safeguarding-290617.pdf>

The Health and Social Care 'Protocol for Joint Investigation of Adult Safeguarding Cases' can be located on the below link:

<http://www.hscboard.hscni.net/download/PUBLICATIONS/safeguard-vulnerable-adults/niasp-publications/Protocol-for-joint-investigation-of-adult-safeguarding-cases.pdf#:~:text=The%20Joint%20Protocol%20relates%20to%20adults%20who%20are,in%20need%20of%20protection%20as%20detailed%20in%20Adult>

For convenience, please find attached both documents.

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 Head of Corporate Information Branch, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing [foi@psni.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@psni.pnn.police.uk).

If, following an Internal Review carried out by an independent decision maker, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, and ask that they investigate whether the PSNI has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. You can write to the Information Commissioner at 'Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF', or use the ICO self-service portal available at [www.ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/officialinformation-concerns-report/official-information-concern/](http://www.ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/officialinformation-concerns-report/official-information-concern/)

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](http://www.psni.police.uk)

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.