

PBNI Disclosure Log – Response to Request

Category: Probation Supervision

Request Reference: 022.03.18

Date of Request: 10 October 2018

Date of Response: 25 October 2018

Request and Response

Could you please provide the number of deaths of offenders in the community, aged 15 to over 65 including any individuals whose ages were unknown, which occurred while they were under probation supervision because they were:

- Serving their court order sentences in the community (including community orders, suspended sentence orders, and cases occurring to those residing in approved premises)
- On post-release supervision after completing a custodial sentence.

Could you please provide a cause of death i.e. self-inflicting, natural causes, homicide, accident, other and unknown, for the cases above.

Could you please provide the information above for the financial years: 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18.

If possible, could you please provide the information above broken down by council area or another suitable way. For example, in England and Wales the stats are collated by Probation Service Division and Community Rehabilitation Centre (CRC).

I can confirm that the Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI) has collated information about people who have died during the period of supervision by PBNI, since November 2016. To clarify further, not all of the people who have been sentenced to a period of community supervision will have been sentenced to a period in custody so 'post-release' is not covered. We did not collate records of this kind before November 2016.

As explained previously Northern Ireland is a single jurisdiction in terms of justice so there is a single Probation Service and we have collated our own figures since 2016. As they are our own figures, they have not been independently verified e.g., cause of death is as reported to PBNI and may not have been authorised by the Coroner where required, and we do not hold all the detail you have requested. However, the information we have is outlined below for you:

PERIOD November 2016 – 30 April 2017

Circumstances	Number
Suspected Drug Overdose/Substance misuse	8
Suspected suicide	3
Natural causes	2
Unknown	1
TOTAL	14

PERIOD May 2017 – 31 March 2018

Circumstances	Number
Suspected Drug Overdose/Substance misuse	8
Suspected suicide	3
Natural causes	4
Unknown	6
TOTAL	21

PERIOD April 2018 – 30 June 2018

Circumstances	Number
Suspected Drug Overdose/Substance misuse	2
Suspected suicide	2

Accidental
TOTAL

1
5

If you are unhappy with the way PBNI has handled your request, you may ask for an internal review using our complaints procedure. A copy of our [complaints procedure](#) is available on our website www.pbni.org.uk. 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.