



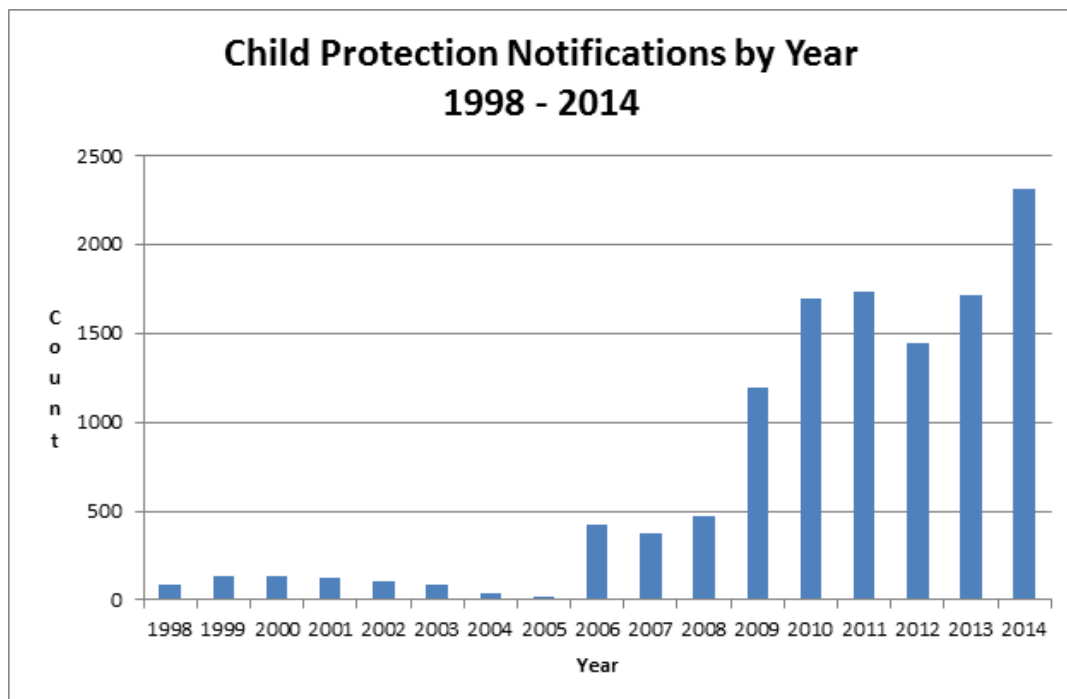
States of Jersey Police  
Freedom of Information  
Rouge Bouillon  
St Helier JE2 3ZA

Date: 09/01/2015

Dear [name of applicant]

Re your FOI request below:

- The number of Child Protection Notifications issued by police a year, for the past five years (2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010)
- The general (Amended) reasons why each CPN was issued
- Police protocol on issuing CPNs – (Why are they issued, in what circumstances, and what does it mean for the child/parent/police?)
- Has police protocol changed as to when CPNs are issued? If so, why?



The actual figures for 2010 to 2014 are:

Year	Child Protection Notifications
2010	1698
2011	1738
2012	1448
2013	1711
2014	2312

### **The reasons why each CPN was issued**

We are unable to provide reasons for each referral without reverting to each individual case and with the numbers created it would fall well outside the permitted time frame of 12.5 hours for retrieving information, under Art 16 of the law. However the reasons referrals are made are listed below:

- Children who are on the Child Protection Register
- Children who are taken into Police Protection
- Children who have suffered assault.
- Children who have been sexually abused or sexually exploited or who sexually abuse others
- Children who are reported missing. (For example when: evidence exists that the child has developed a repeated pattern of running; the child has, or is likely to, experience significant harm; parent appears unable, or unwilling, to work to support and meet the needs of the child.)
- Children who abuse drugs or other substances, or whose parents/carers abuse drugs
- Children who abuse alcohol to the degree that they require medical intervention
- Children who reside or associate with a sex offender
- Children who suffer neglect- i.e. who are not provided adequate food, warmth or medical treatment by parent/carer
- Children who have attempted or considered suicide, or have self-harmed or considered self- harming
- Unborn baby in any of the above circumstances. (please record the estimated birth date on the details of concern page)
- Children who are suspected or charged with a crime or process offence.
- Any case where an officer has a concern for the child's well-being,

### **Police protocol on issuing CPNs**

Once a notice has been issued, the Detective Sergeant in PPU (Public Protection Unit) will research and risk assess the information and decide on a course of action. This may include referral to Multi Agency Working to Safeguard Children (MASH) group. Each individual set of circumstances would then determine the outcome for the child and any subsequent action involving the parents.

### **Has police protocol changed as to when CPNs are issued? If so, why?**

Chief Inspector Alison Fossey states: "The process of submitting CPNs began in 2006 and the policy has largely not changed since. There has been a steady increase since CPNs were introduced due to (Better) training of police officers and greater public awareness. Awareness was of course heightened during 2008 and Op Rectangle (Historic Child Abuse inquiry) which led to another increase in reported CPN's.

The States Police have done a huge amount of work in recent years, in common with UK forces. We have updated our Missing Person's policy and took the opportunity to further retrain all police officers in light of increased understanding of the link between CSE (Child sexual exploitation) and missing children. A CPN is now submitted for each missing child, some of whom are reported missing/absent up to 40 times over the course of the year. Several targeted operations were run in 2014 that looked at groups of vulnerable children, these again will have added significantly to the overall numbers.

In the wake of the Saville enquiry, and CSE cases in Rochdale, we have improved the way we engage with victims and how we investigate abuse. As a result many, many, more victims have found the confidence to report abuse, knowing they will be treated with sensitivity and respect, that we will listen to them and that we will take their allegations seriously.

There has also been an exponential rise in people using digital technology as part of their daily lives; that rise includes criminals using the internet to groom children or create, share or view images of child sexual abuse. This will undoubtedly have resulted in an increase of CPN's dealing with online abuse.

Finally, MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) was set up towards the end of 2013. MASH is the group most CPN's are referred to whilst it has also improved communications between States Departments which in turn has resulted in more referrals."

States of Jersey Police

This information will be published on the States of Jersey Police Web Page.

Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information (Jersey) Law 2011. If you wish to appeal the above decision, you must initially write to: FoI Internal Review, States of Jersey Police, Professional Standards, Rouge Bouillon, St Helier JE2 3ZA.

