



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2008-04581
Keyword: Crime
Subject: HOMOPHOBIC CRIME

Request:

- Question 1** - How does your force monitor and record homophobic crime and homophobic incidents?
- Question 2** - When did your force start monitoring and recording homophobic crime and incidents using this method?
- Question 3** - How many incidences of homophobic crime has your force recorded each calendar year since 1997?
- Question 4.** How many homophobic incidents has your force recorded in each calendar year since 1997?

Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested and the answers to your questions are as follows -

Answer 1 - During 2004/05 improvements were made to the processes within PSNI for identifying homophobic incidents and crimes. Since 1st April 2004 the method of collating incidents and crimes of this nature has been conducted electronically through the PSNI's computerised crime recording systems. Prior to this, data was gathered through manual returns.

Homophobic incident and crime figures can be accessed by PSNI staff through an internal management information system.

A homophobic incident is defined as any incident, which is perceived to be homophobic by the victim, or any other person. Homophobia can be defined as a fear or dislike directed towards lesbian, gay or bisexual people, or a fear or dislike directed towards their perceived lifestyle, culture or characteristics.

In terms of recording, not all incidents will result in the recording of a crime. For those that do, the resulting homophobic crimes are classified according to the Home Office Counting Rules and form a subset of the overall recorded crime figures.

Answer 2 - PSNI have recorded homophobic crimes and incidents in this way from 1st April 2004.

The homophobic incident and crime figures provided for 1st April to 31st December 2004 and the full calendar years 2005, 2006 and 2007 (in response to Q3 and Q4) are not directly comparable with the figures prior 1st April 2004, due to the change in method of collation described in Q1.

Answer 3

	1 st April to 31 st December 2004	2005	2006	2007
Homophobic Crimes	110	156	131	112

Source: PSNI Central Statistics Unit

Answer 4

	1 st April to 31 st December 2004	2005	2006	2007
Homophobic Incidents	139	227	177	152

Source: PSNI Central Statistics Unit

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 Freedom of Information Team, 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 Freedom of Information, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing foi@psni.pnn.police.uk.

If following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision maker, you were to remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request you may make a complaint, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office 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. 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 his discretion.

Please be advised that all PSNI replies under Freedom of Information will be released simultaneously into the public domain via our website @ www.psni.police.uk.

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