



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-03749

Keyword: Crime

Subject: CRIME RECORDING INVESTIGATIONS

Request and 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:

Question 1

Please state the number of offences recorded in each crime category in 2009, and the previous two calendar years (2007 and 2008) - for example, 2009: 10 murder, 20 attempted murder, 30 arson; 2008: 11 murder, 21 attempted murder, 31 arson.

Answer

Please see table below for Recorded Crime.

Question 2

Please state how many of question one, in each category and each year, were 'screened out', and what percentage in each category and year this represented (for example, 2009: 9 murders screened out, 90%).

Question 3

Please state how many of question one, in each category and each year, were not taken beyond an initial investigation, and what percentage in each category and year this represented (for example, 2009: 9 murders not taken beyond initial investigation, 90%).

Answer

The cost of complying with your request for information in questions 2 and 3 would exceed the "appropriate limit" as stated in the Freedom of Information Regulations 2004, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450. The only method for establishing exactly which crimes have been screened out, which crimes have only been subject to a basic investigation, and which crimes have been subject to a more detailed investigation is to review each reported crime within each of the eight Districts (approx 15,000 per year – 1 District). Given that this request covers all crime types, it would take months to obtain this information. Under the Volume Crime Management Model (VCMM), the purpose is to review all reported crime and attempt to ensure that at least a minimum standard investigation is conducted. It is a methodology whereby an assessment is made of the crime recorded and the likelihood of achieving the identification of a suspect/offender for that offence. A

judgment is then made on the local priority of the offence. A decision is taken whether further enquiries are necessary, would require the use of disproportionate resources, or if the matter can be closed without further investigation. Any offence with a genuine suspect will receive appropriate further investigation.

When a call is received by Call Management and a decision is taken whether to deploy a resource immediately, pass the details to another Department for further action, set up a diary appointment or that the details of the crime are recorded but no additional resource is deployed to carry out any further investigation. Under the Volume Crime Management Model, VCMM, this is termed the **Initial investigation**.

Assuming a resource is deployed to carry out an investigation, this is termed the Primary investigation. The Primary investigation should be carried out to an acceptable standard and this is quality assured by the Supervisor and the Volume Crime Management Unit, VCMU. The Principal Screener screens all priority volume crime Primary investigations to decide whether further **Secondary investigation** is required where a suspect has not already been identified and dealt with.

I have considered whether I can be of any assistance in terms of helping you refine your request to bring it under the cost limit, however, due to the structure and nature of questions 2 and 3, makes this extremely difficult.

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 letter.

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 PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released 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.