



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-02800

Keyword: Crime

Subject: CRIMES REPORTED TO THE MEDIA BY POLICE

Request and Answer:

Question 1

Reference the period of the PSNI annual report on crime 2008/09.

Please advise the number of crimes in each category of serious violence e.g. murder or GBH or serious assaults; please specify.

Against each category please advise how many crimes were reported to the media by police i.e. as appeals for information witnesses or in any other format.

You subsequently agreed to refinement of this request so as to limit the classification to murder and attempted murder only.

Answer

MURDERS

Details were released to the media on all 24 murders. The PSNI Department of Media and PR automatically release details of all murders.

ATTEMPTED MURDERS

Of 124 attempted murders*, details were released to the media in relation to 86 of them.

The PSNI Department of Media and PR release information on all attempted murders at the direction of a Senior Investigating Officer, who is ultimately in charge of what information is released into the public domain. In most cases information is released in order to make an appeal for information or witnesses, in order to progress the inquiry and assist the investigation team.

The majority of those incidents not released were domestic related incidents therefore we would not release details of those unless asked to do so by the injured party.

* Attempted murders covers any attempt on a person's life and the figure of 124 attempted murders does not reflect 124 separate incidents. For example a security alert where a viable device has been left outside a person's house could account for 3 attempted murders.

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 PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ <http://www.psni.police.uk/>

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