



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-03337

Keyword: Crime

Subject: HISTORICAL ENQUIRY TEAM INVESTIGATIONS

Request and Answer:

Question

Could you supply me with some stat's re access/uptake Historical Enquiry Team to get an idea of any differences in terms of Protestant/Catholic uptake.

Answer

The HET is reviewing the deaths of 3,259 people in 2,559 incidents that occurred during the period known as 'The Troubles' - 1968-1998.

With some exceptions the deaths are dealt with in a chronological order starting in 1968.

To engage with victim's families we first have to identify, trace and write to them explaining who the HET are, what we do and asking if they wish to be involved in the review process. Sometimes we are unable to identify surviving relatives of victims. Some families engage and others, for whatever reasons, either do not reply to the letters or contact the HET indicating they do not want to engage.

Of those who do not engage, however, once the HET has reviewed the death of their relative, we write to them again telling them we have completed the review and informing them they can still contact the HET if they wish to engage. Of the families these letters were sent to 33% engaged with the HET.

The data below refers to the HET reviews opened to date:-

Number of families to be traced	1,119
Number of families written to	1,080
Catholic Positive Engagement	341
Protestant Positive Engagement	229
Unknown/Other Positive Engagement <i>(Some families decline to give their religion)</i>	107
Total Positive Engagement	677

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.