



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-03352

Keyword: Crime

Subject: HONOUR BASED VIOLENCE CRIMES

Request and Answer:

I refer to your request for information and your written clarification stating that honour based violence includes any crime/act of violence perpetrated against a family member or member of the community in the name of honour. It also included forced marriage and that you would like the information for the last three years and would prefer it to be split by year if possible.

Question 1

How many incidents/crimes have been investigated by the force as honour based violence crimes?

Question 2

How many arrests have been made for honour based violence crimes?

Question 3

How many of these people were charged?

Question 4

How many were convicted?

Question 5

How many cases of female genital mutilation have been reported to the force?

Question 6

How many people have been charged in relation to female genital mutilation?

Answer

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that prior to April 2009 there was no standardised way to collate the requested information within different Districts or in a centralised manner. I contacted the departments who maintain our file handling systems and the PSNI Central Statistics Unit and have been advised that although we have information on recorded crime on both the ICIS and NICHE systems there is no marker/field on these systems to identify if an offence is honour based or not. For the three financial years in question 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09 there were 31846, 29580 and 29468 Offences against the person recorded respectively. To identify if an offence was honour based or not would require someone with specialist knowledge to access and extract the specific information requested. It has been estimated that this extraction of information would take in excess of 757hrs therefore exceeding the "appropriate limit" of 18hrs.

Due to the factors above the cost of complying with your request for information in respect of your questions exceed the "appropriate limit" as stated in the Freedom of Information Regulations 2004, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450. To provide a response to these questions would entail the extensive utilisation of resources costing well in excess of the "appropriate limit" of £450 laid down by the Secretary of State.

We have also considered whether we can be of any assistance in helping you to refine your request to bring it within the cost limit but unfortunately the nature and structure of this information makes this impossible.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice, and the request has therefore been closed.

If you have any queries regarding your request or this 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.