



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-00403

Keyword: Crime

Subject: KNIFE CRIMES

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. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full.

Question 1.

How many incidents involving knives or bladed instruments were reported.

Question 2.

How many of those incidents involved actual violence or threats of violence.

Question 3.

How many of those incidents related to simple possession of knives or bladed instruments?

Answer.

Please refer to the attached document, PDF1906 - ' Recorded offences where a knife was involved in the incident '. It should be noted that the overall crime figure also includes other offences, which are not included in the criteria requested.

NB: Police forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide crime statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the crime data. It should be noted that for these reasons the PSNI's response to your questions should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you may receive.

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.psnipolice.uk/>

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

Recorded offences where a knife was involved in the incident¹

Northern Ireland

	2007	2008
Overall Crime	990	1,152
Violent Crime²	724	748
Possession offences³	131	147

Source: Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

¹ The figures relate to crimes where a knife was involved in the incident – it is not known how the knife was actually used.

² Violent crime includes Offences against the person, Sexual Offences and Robberies.

³ Possession offences include Possessing Article With Blade Or Point In Public Place, Possessing Offensive Weapon In Public Place, Possessing Offensive Weapon On School Premises, Possessing Article With Blade Or Point On School Premises, Possessing Prohibited Weapons and Unlawful Possession Of Prohibited Weapon.

These figures are provisional and may be subject to change