



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2009-01327

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** MLA'S REPORTED AS COMMITTING HATE CRIME

### Request and Answer:

#### Question

Could you please provide me with the number of currently elected MLAs (Member of the Legislative Assembly) in Northern Ireland that have been reported as committing any kind of hate crime for the past five years, and the number of reports of any kind of hate crime against currently elected MLAs for the past five years?

#### Answer

Searches were conducted however these searches failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

In order to answer your questions it would be necessary for the PSNI to carry out checks on each individual MLA. To do this we would need the name, home address and Date of Birth of each MLA as in the past we have found that there are people on our crime recording systems who have the same name and DOB. Also in relation to victims, we record a new victim per report and depending on how they are recorded will determine if the victim details will be matched. I have attempted to retrieve the required names, address and DOBs from our Districts so that the checks could be carried out centrally. Some name and address information has been provided, but the list is incomplete and there is no DOB information available, therefore it is not possible to carry out the necessary checks.

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](mailto: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.