



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-02612

Keyword: Crime

Subject: RACE HATE CRIME

Request and Answer:

Question

I am writing to you to request under the Freedom of Information legislation statistics on Race Hate Crime incidents and crimes reported for the period starting 1st April 2009 until 31st July 2009 (or nearest to this date).

Answer

Please find attached document containing statistics on Race Hate Crime incidents and crimes reported.

It should be noted that data for the 2009/10 financial year to date are taken from a live operational database and are therefore subject to change.

Data Quality:

The PSNI's statistics on incidents and crimes with a hate motivation are derived from a motivation 'tick box' contained in the Occurrence Management Form which has to be completed by a police officer or member of police staff for each such reported incident/crime. The correct application of a hate motivation for all such incidents/crimes is not quality assured by the PSNI's Central Statistics Branch.

Definition of hate incidents/crimes:

Any occurrence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, as being motivated by prejudice or hate (ACPO Definition), will be recorded as having a hate motivation.

If no criminal offences have occurred then a hate incident will be recorded. If however a crime has occurred, then the incident will be recorded as both a hate incident and a hate crime. Crimes with a hate motivation are therefore a subset of hate incidents.

Definition of 'Racist':

A racist incident is defined as any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person. A racial group can be defined as a group of persons defined by reference to race, colour, nationality or ethnic or national origins (this includes UK National origins i.e. Scottish, English, Welsh and Irish) and references to a person's racial group refer to any racial group into which he/she falls. Racial group includes the Irish Traveller community.

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.

Incidents and Crimes with a racist motivation

Time period	No. of incidents	No. of crimes
1 Apr 2009 to 31 Jul 2009 ¹	390	265

Source: PSNI Central Statistics Unit

¹Data for the 2009/10 financial year to date are taken from a live operational database and are therefore subject to change.

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