



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-02045

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: HOAX CALLS TO EMERGENCY SERVICES

Request and Answer:

Question

Please can you state for your police force area how many incidents have been dealt with which would be classified as 'Hoax Calls to Emergency Services' according to the National Incident Category List (NICL). I would like this information for each year since 2004.

Answer

Searches were conducted which failed to locate records or documents to the level of detail outlined in your request and based on the information you have provided. Accordingly, I have determined that the police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold all the information to which you seek access.

However, figures are held by the Central Statistics Department for incidents which have been classified as 'Hoax Calls' to the Police Service of Northern Ireland from April 2006. Data is not available for any period prior to this. Figures according to the National Incident Category List (NICL) specified in your request are not held.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold this information to the level of detail you require. Please see the attached table 2315.pdf which shows statistics for incidents dealt with by the PSNI which have been classified as 'hoax calls'. These figures are derived from operational police information collated by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) in accordance with the Home Office National Standard for Incident Recording (NSIR). They have been compiled in this format since the NSIR was introduced in April 2006; therefore figures for the financial year 2004/05 are not held.

Please note this data is not quality assured by the PSNI's Central Statistics Unit.

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 @ www.psni.police.uk

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

Hoax Calls to the Emergency Services
2006/07 to 2009/10

Year	Total no. of incidents
2006/07	1,450
2007/08	1,637
2008/09	1,996
2009/10 to date (1 Apr – 30 Jun 2009)	527

Source: PSNI Central Statistics Unit

Data on incidents within Northern Ireland are derived from operational police information collated by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) in accordance with the Home Office National Standard for Incident Recording (NSIR). They have been compiled in this format since the NSIR was introduced in April 2006. The data are not quality assured by the PSNI's Central Statistics Unit.