



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2010-02628

**Keyword:** Complaints/Discipline

**Subject:** Enquiries Carried out by HET

### 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.

### Questions in relation to Historical Enquiries Team

When I spoke with you on 21<sup>st</sup> September you clarified that questions 2 and 3 were seeking to find out how many murders were carried out by republicans and how many by loyalists.

I explained to you we may have difficulty in answering those points because we do not hold the information you request. I am very happy for you to telephone me if you feel I can be of any further assistance.

#### Question 1

The total number of enquiries carried out by the HET, since its inception.

#### Answer

The HET has completed 830 cases by incident, 1082 by victim, since its inception in 2006. We currently are working on 367 cases.

#### Question 2

The total number carried out against Loyalist paramilitaries.

#### Question 3

The total number carried out against Republican paramilitaries.

#### Answer

The HET is unable to answer these questions. The HET deals not just with murders but all deaths attributable to 'The Troubles'. These include terrorist murders but also include deaths caused by the security forces and deaths caused by terrorists placing bombs that prematurely exploded.

In many cases the HET reviews a case without uncovering evidence of who committed the murder. Intelligence and circumstances allow us to suggest responsibility lay with a certain group, but this is only opinion. In some cases where paramilitary groups have admitted responsibility, or where convictions have occurred it is easier to state who was responsible.

Because of the inability to give accurate statistics we do not compile this data and therefore do not hold the information requested.

#### **Question 4**

The total number of successful prosecutions against Loyalist paramilitaries.

#### **Question 5**

The total number of successful prosecutions against Republican paramilitaries

#### **Answer**

There have been 71 arrests to date; all but one are loyalists. These are broken down as follows:

#### **Offences dealt with by arrest and charge/report to PPS under Operation Stafford**

One Individual pleaded 'guilty' to 54 individual charges and had 96 offences taken into consideration.

A second individual pleaded 'guilty' to 46 individual charges and had 24 offences taken into consideration.

The charged offences to which he pleaded guilty include wounding and grievous bodily harm with intent, possession of firearm with intent to endanger life, possession of firearms and ammunition with intent, arson and arson with intent to endanger life, conspiracy to hijack, conspiracy to commit false imprisonment, conspiracy to rob, possession of explosives with intent, causing an explosion, conspiracy to cause an explosion, conspiracy to intimidate, intimidation, riot, armed robbery, robbery, attempting to perverting the course of justice, criminal damage, possession of offensive weapons and possession of cocaine.

The offences charged occurred between 1994 and 2005 and those taken into consideration occurred between 1990 and 2008.

#### **Murder**

- 14 Persons arrested, 10 charged with the murder.
- 8 charged with UVF membership offences.
- 3 reported for attempting to pervert the course of justice.
- 3 reported for the murder and assisting offenders.

#### **Murder**

- 4 people arrested
- 2 charged with murder
- 2 reported to PPS

#### **Attempted murder**

- 9 Persons arrested in total.
- 3 charged with attempted murder / GBH with intent.
- 6 reported to PPS for attempted murder / GBH with intent.

## GBH

8 persons arrested and reported to the PPS for GBH / Aggravated burglary.

## Abduction & GBH

3 arrested for this offence.  
3 reported to PPS

## Arson & intimidation attack

2 arrested for this offence.  
2 reported to PPS.

## Shooting

4 arrested for GBH and firearms offences.  
4 reported to PPS.

## Shooting

4 arrested for GBH  
4 reported to PPS

## Shooting

3 arrested.  
3 reported to PPS.

## GBH

14 arrested  
14 reported to the PPS

## **Other Arrests**

### Murder

1 arrested – Report to PPS

### Murder

1 arrested - On bail not charged to date.

### Murder

1 arrested - Charged bailed to Laganside Ct

### Murder

1 arrested - On bail not charged to date

## Murder

1 arrested – Referred to PPS No further action. Insufficient evidence

## Murder

1 arrested - Papers submitted to PPS awaits decision.

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 letter.

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 @ [www.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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