



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-01203
Keyword: Crime
Subject: Questions About Assaults on Taxi Drivers

Request and Answer:

I am writing to confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information and the answer to your questions are as follows:

Question 1

On how many occasions in each of the last five years has a taxi driver made an allegation of being physically assaulted by a passenger in the Newtownabbey area?

Question 2

Of these allegations, how many people were charged?

Question 4

A breakdown detailing the nature of the attacks?

Answer

Please see tables below 'Recorded assault offences where the victim occupation is Taxi or Mini Cab Driver'.

Question 3

How many of these people were convicted?

Answer

There has been one conviction and two cases are pending.

Question 5

How many taxi drivers have claimed compensation after being physically assaulted?

Answer

PSNI does not hold this information. I can advise that any claim arising from such an incident would be dealt with by the Compensation Agency.

Contact details for the Compensation Agency can be found at:
http://www.compensationni.gov.uk/index/about_us/contact_details.htm.

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.

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.

Recorded assault offences where the victim occupation is Taxi or Mini Cab Driver¹

Newtownabbey

	Recorded	Of those recorded, the number since detected^{2,3}	Of those since detected, the number by means of charge/ summons
2005/06	3	3	1
2006/07	5	2	1
2007/08	10	4	4
2008/09	8	1	1
2009/10	5	0	0

Source: Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

	Wounding/GBH	AOABH	Common assault/Aggravated assault
2005/06	0	1	2
2006/07	0	3	2
2007/08	0	7	3
2008/09	1	3	4
2009/10	0	2	3

Source: Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

¹ Although the victim's occupation is recorded as a Taxi or Mini cab driver, it is not possible to identify if the victim was working in their capacity as a taxi or mini cab driver at the time the offence took place.

² The number of offences classed as detected by means of charge/summons are included in the overall number detected.

³ The figures for the number of recorded crimes since detected may change as undetected offences may still be subject to investigation.

Please note: Information used to retrieve these figures was taken from a live crime recording system meaning that these figures may be subject to change.