



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2010-3286

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Carrying of Knives and Knife Crime

### Request and Answer:

I am writing to confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has now completed its search for the information you requested.

### Question 1

In past year to March (or whatever date end of financial years is) how many people were caught carrying knives? Please give corresponding figures for previous 12 month period.

### Question 2

How many people convicted 2009-2010 for handling knives.....again figures for corresponding period last year?

### Question 3

How many people killed by knives in 12 month period up to 2010 and again comparison figures for previous 12 months?

### Question 4

How many people hospitalised through knife injuries (assault) in past 12 months compared to previous 12-month period?

### Answer

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit) to provide you the applicant with a notice which states that fact.

It is estimated that the cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the "appropriate costs limit" under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450.

To retrieve the information requested in relation to convictions would require a manual check of all relevant occurrences. This amounts to just over 3000 occurrences to manually check and at a minimum of 5 minutes per occurrence an estimated time to retrieve this information would be 250 hours. This therefore greatly exceeds the cost threshold.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice, and the request has therefore been closed.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland have also considered whether we can be of any assistance in terms of helping you refine your request to bring it under the cost limit, however due to the structure and nature of your request makes this impossible.

For your information the most current knife crime statistics are available on the PSNI website. The figures show a various breakdown of offences involving knife/sharp instruments for each financial year from 2007/08. To access these statistics please click on the following link:

[http://www.psni.police.uk/knife\\_sharp\\_instrument\\_figures\\_from\\_q1\\_0708 -  
\\_figures\\_for\\_release.xls.](http://www.psni.police.uk/knife_sharp_instrument_figures_from_q1_0708_-_figures_for_release.xls)

If you have any queries regarding your request or this 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.