



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2010-02443  
**Keyword:** Crime  
**Subject:** Cases Investigated 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.

#### Question 1

How many cases has HET in total to investigate?

#### Answer

2563

#### Question 2

How many are completed?

#### Answer

830 cases by incident providing reports to 1082 families.

#### Question 3

How many are open? Up until what date?

#### Answer

In addition to the 830 completed cases, the HET currently has 367 cases open at different stages of review.

#### Question 4

How many suspects been interviewed by HET?

#### Question 5

How many suspects have been arrested by HET?

#### Question 6

What information can be provided about the dates and locations of the related murders from questions 4 and 5? Dates and locations?

## **Answer**

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

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 - 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.

### **Question 7**

How many DNA samples have been taken from suspects for HET?

#### **Answer**

15

### **Question 8**

How many suspects have had fingerprints taken for HET?

#### **Answer**

15 are known to have been taken. It is possible others were taken but this information is not in a retrievable format.

### **Question 9**

How many suspects have been charged by HET?

#### **Answer**

See answer to Q6 above.

**Question 10**

What information can be provided in terms of what ballistics records have been uploaded onto HET's main database? Can we say what percentage of such records have been uploaded? Can we say for what approx date bands records have been uploaded?

**Answer**

Approximately 1040 cases have been uploaded onto the HET data base. We cannot give dates these cover because they include case brought forward under our exemption policy. The HET cannot give percentages of research we have not yet undertaken. We are concentrating on information required for reviews that have been or will be undertaken in the near future.

Of the 1040 cases uploaded there are details of 2086 weapons that have been used. Documentation from the weapons and explosives research centre have been uploaded in 916 cases but this work is ongoing with cases about to be uploaded.

**Question 11**

What figures can be provided to show how many DNA tests have been carried out for HET to date on pieces of evidence?

**Answer**

From records commencing March 2006 the HET can state that 67 DNA tests have been requested / conducted. However it must be borne in mind that although all of these requests were made to laboratories it would be at the discretion of the examining scientist as to how many DNA tests were undertaken. In the HET's experience many more would be taken to be used as controls for the ongoing forensic work. As a result the figure 67 would be the minimum requested by HET.

It would not be possible to accurately obtain the exact number of these DNA tests without access to all of the relevant laboratories records; a task which could take weeks to obtain.

**Question 12**

What figures has HET regarding client feedback to date?

**Answer**

The HET commissioned an outside agency to conduct customer satisfaction surveys with victim's families the HET has engaged with. The results of that survey have now been provided to the HET and we are assessing and analysing them. The results will be of public interest and the HET intends to publish these in the future.

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.psnipolice.uk](http://www.psnipolice.uk)

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