



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2010-00124  
**Keyword:** Crime  
**Subject:** Crimes Against Police Officers

### Request and Answer:

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

I have today decided to:

- disclose records in answer to questions 2 to 5 in full; and
- fully exempt records in answer to question 1 pursuant to the provisions of section 21 of the Act.

### Question 1

How many police officers were employed by the force on the latest date for which figures were available?

### Answer

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states that fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 it has been decided to refuse access to the information you have requested. Section 21 of the Act provides that information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means is exempt information.

The information you have requested is available from the Police Service of Northern Ireland's Publication Scheme. To access the information please visit our website at [http://www.psn.police.uk/index/updates/updates\\_statistics/updates\\_strength\\_of\\_police\\_service\\_statistics.htm](http://www.psn.police.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics/updates_strength_of_police_service_statistics.htm)

**Question 2**

How many of your police officers were victims of a stabbing or attempted stabbing in a) 2005 b) 2006 c) 2007 d) 2008 e) 2009?

**Answer**

Please see attached table.

**Question 3**

How many of your police officers were victims of a shooting or attempted shooting in a) 2005 b) 2006 c) 2007 d) 2008 e) 2009?

**Answer**

Please see attached table.

**Question 4**

How many of your police officers were assaulted in a) 2005 b) 2006 c) 2007 d) 2008 e) 2009?  
If possible could you give the number of i) physical and ii) verbal assaults

**Answer**

Please see attached table. It has not been possible to give the number of i) physical and ii) verbal assaults as this information is not recorded.

**Question 5**

How many of your police officers were threatened with a weapon in a) 2005 b) 2006 c) 2007 d) 2008 e) 2009?

**Answer**

Please see attached table.

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.

## Recorded offences where the victim is identified as a police officer<sup>1</sup>

### Northern Ireland

	Knife/Sharp <sup>2</sup> instrument involved offences	Firearm <sup>3</sup> involved offences	Assault <sup>4</sup> offences	Threats <sup>5</sup>
2005	9	0	2467	2
2006	11	2	2816	2
2007	26	13	2846	14
2008	6	0	2835	0
2009	0	2	3152	0

Source: Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

<sup>1</sup> Relates to offences where the victim has been identified as an officer on duty.

<sup>2</sup> The figures relate to offences where a knife/sharp instrument was involved in the incident – it is not known how it was actually used.

<sup>3</sup> The figures relate to offences where a firearm was involved in the incident – it is not known how it was actually used.

<sup>4</sup> Assault offences include wounding with intent, GBH with intent, wounding, GBH, AOABH, assault on police, aggravated assault and common assault.

<sup>5</sup> Includes all offences against the person where the victim injuries are indicated as threat only.

#### Please Note:

All four categories in the table above should be treated as discrete and should not be totalled together as there may be a risk of offences being double counted.

The figures above are based on information taken from a live crime recording system and will be subject to change.