



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-02706

Keyword: Crime

Subject: HET Cases Referred to Crime Operations

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

Re: Cases referred to Crime Operations by the Historical Enquiries Team (HET)

For 2009/10 the number and nature of cases referred by the HET to the following specialist branches in Crime Operations: Organised Crime (C1); Serious Crime (C2); Intelligence (C3); and, Crime Operations Support (C4).

Also the criteria used to determine the need for referral to the specialist branch.

Answer

Since the beginning of 2009, HET has passed 22 murder cases involving 23 victims to the PSNI.

17 of these cases, which are subject of ongoing criminal proceedings, were passed to the PSNI as a result of a policy decision by the Chief Constable on the basis that the PSNI is more appropriately resourced to meet the continuing and increasing demands of this series of cases.

In general terms, a case is passed to the PSNI when there is a need to exercise police powers e.g. to arrest and interview a suspect, or when it is necessary to conduct investigations that require specialist skills. Within this criterion, once police powers have been used and criminal proceedings commenced, PSNI retain responsibility to oversee this process.

The remaining 5 cases were referred on the basis that further investigation was required. Unlike the other 17 cases, at the time of referral they were not the subject of criminal proceedings.

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.