



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-01207

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Racially Motivated Incidents B District

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

I am writing to you to request, under the Freedom of Information Act, information on the number of charges and/or convictions resulting from the 385 racially motivated incidents in policing district B from April to December 2008/2009 and April to December 2009/2010. For which such figures are available?

Answer

The Police Service of Northern Ireland's Central Statistics Unit have provided the number of crimes with a racist motivation, that have since been detected, split by method of detection (e.g charge). Please see the table attached below.

Police in B District are committed to tackling hate/race crime and increasing racial awareness and acceptance. Local officers are working hard with various community and voluntary groups within the District to help build confidence within minority ethnic groups to ensure that those who are the victims of crime report those crimes to police. It should be noted that a contributory factor to the figures was the amount of race/hate incidents that followed from the confrontations around the Poland v Northern Ireland football match on 28 March 2009. Incidents which occurred after this football match led to 53 related offences, most of which were race/hate offences. A team of hate crime investigators is in place in B District to ensure a consistent approach to dealing with hate crime on an ongoing basis.

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.psnj.police.uk

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

Racist Motivation¹: incidents, crimes and detections – B District

	1 Apr to 31 Dec 2008	1 Apr to 31 Dec 2009
Incidents recorded ¹	159	225
Crimes recorded ¹	117	134
Total number of crimes recorded which have since been detected	11	16
of which detected by: Charge ²	4	5
of which detected by: Summons ²	4	8
of which detected by: Caution – adult ^{2,3}	1	0
of which detected by: Caution – juveniles ^{2,4}	2	3

Source: PSNI Central Statistics Unit

¹A racist incident is defined as any incident, which may or may not constitute a criminal offence, and which is perceived by the victim or any other person to be motivated by prejudice or hate towards a racial group. A racial group can be defined as a group of persons defined by reference to race, colour, nationality or ethnic or national origins (this includes UK National origins ie Scottish, English, Welsh and Irish) and references to a person's racial group refer to any racial group into which he/she falls. Racial group includes the Irish Traveller community.

Recorded crimes (sometimes referred to as notifiable offences) are those which are deemed to be indictable or triable-either-way. A crime will be recorded as having a racist motivation where it meets the definition provided above. Not all racist incidents will result in the recording of a crime. Racist crimes are classified according to the Home Office Counting Rules and form a subset of the overall recorded crime figures.

²The number of offences detected by means of charge/summons and caution are included in the total offences detected.

³Adult cautions include adult cautions and adult informed warnings.

⁴Juvenile cautions include juvenile restorative cautions, juvenile informed warnings and juvenile prosecutorial diversions.

Data Quality: The PSNI's statistics on incidents/crimes with a racist motivation are derived from a motivation 'tick box' contained in the Occurrence Management Form which has to be completed by a police officer or member of police staff for each such reported incident/crime. The correct application of a racist motivation for all such incidents/crimes is not quality assured by the PSNI's Central Statistics Branch, but quarterly audits are conducted to ensure that any under or over-recording is corrected.