



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-02462

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Crimes Against the Muslim Community

Request and Answer:

I am writing to confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information and the answer to your questions are as follows:

Question 1

The total number of hate crimes that have been reported over the last 12 months to you.

Answer

Pursuant to the provision 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 Statistics for the various individual hate motivations for the last 12 months (i.e. the 2009/10 financial year) please visit our website at:

http://www.psni.police.uk/3_hate_incidents_and_crimes_final.pdf.

Question 2

The number of hate crimes that have been reported to you over the last 12 months that targeted Muslims specifically.

Question 3

The total number of physical attacks that have been reported over the last 12 months and, out of these, the number of physical attacks that were perceived by the victim to be motivated by religious hatred i.e., because they are / were perceived to be Muslim.

Question 4

The total number actual bodily harm offences that have been reported over the last 12 months and, out of these, the number of actual bodily harm offences that were perceived by the victim to be motivated by religious hatred i.e., because they are / were perceived to be Muslim.

Question 5

The total number of grievous bodily harm offences that have been reported over the last 12 months

and, out of these, the number of grievous bodily harm offences which were perceived by the victim to be motivated by religious hatred i.e., because they are / were perceived to be Muslim.

Question 6

The number of verbal or written abuse offences that have been reported over the last 12 months that were perceived by the victim to be motivated by religious hatred i.e., because they are / were perceived to be Muslim.

Question 7

The number of property damage offences that were reported over the last 12 months which were perceived by the victim to be motivated by religious hatred i.e., because they are / were perceived to be Muslim.

Answer

Pursuant to the provision of Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 it has been decided to refuse access to the offence information in questions 2-7 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 on all crime types for 2009/10 is available from the Police Service of Northern Ireland's Publication Scheme. To access these Statistics please visit our website at:

http://www.psni.police.uk/1_recorded_crime_200910.pdf.

Data Quality: No reports of any religious motivated hate crimes against Muslims are recorded on our 2009/10. However, the PSNI's statistics on incidents/crimes with a hate 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 hate 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.

Question 8

The total number of Race related crimes that have been reported over the last 12 months and, out of these, the number that have been motivated by the victims Islamic identity rather than their ethnic identity.

Answer

There were 712 Race crimes recorded in 2009/10. Seven of these are Racist cases, where the victim also happens to be Muslim but this is not the motivation for the crime.

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.