



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-01571

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Non-Molestations Orders

Request and Answer:

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

Question 1

Please state how many non-molestation orders have been issued in Northern Ireland in each of the years 2009, 2008 and 2007. Please provide comparison for Dungannon, Cookstown and County Tyrone.

Question 2

Please state how many non-molestation orders have been contravened in Northern Ireland in each of the years 2009, 2008 and 2007. Please provide comparison for Dungannon, Cookstown and County Tyrone.

Question 3

Please state how many convictions there have been for contravening non-molestation orders in Northern Ireland in each of the years 2009, 2008 and 2007. Please provide comparison for Dungannon, Cookstown and County Tyrone.

Question 4

Please state in which sector the most non-molestation orders were issued in each of the years 2009, 2008 and 2007. Please include the number of non-molestation orders in each case.

Question 5

Please state where the most non-molestation orders were contravened in each of the years 2009, 2008 and 2007. Please include the number of non-molestation orders in each case.

Answer

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit) to provide you the applicant with a notice which states that fact.

The requested information in relation to question 1 is not held centrally within the Police Service of

Northern Ireland and so each of our eight District Command Units had to be contacted in an attempt to retrieve any available information. There is no standardised way to collate the requested information within the different districts which is why some districts may be able to retrieve some information and others do not hold it. One district alone estimated that this information would take 10 hours to retrieve, which when added with estimates from the other districts that could provide any information, would exceed the cost threshold, and this relates to question one only. This cost when added with the time taken to retrieve information for the remaining questions would greatly exceed the cost threshold.

It is estimated that the cost of complying with your request for information would therefore exceed the "appropriate costs limit" under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice, and the request has therefore been closed.

Although excess cost removes the service's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied some information, relative to your request, retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this will be helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

Questions 2 & 5 - Please see table below in relation to the number of breaches of non-molestation orders.

Question 3 - Please see table below in relation to the number of convictions for breach of non-molestation orders.

In compliance with Section 16 of the Act the Police Service of Northern Ireland has considered whether we can be of any further assistance in terms of helping you refine your request. However due to the way in which the information is held, it would not be possible to retrieve any further information within the appropriate cost limit.

Some information in relation to questions 1 and 4 may be available from Northern Ireland Courts Service.

You can contact them by email at communicationsgroup@courtsni.gov.uk, or by writing to them at:

Information Access

Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service
Laganside House
23-27 Oxford Street
Belfast
BT1 3LA

If you have any queries regarding your request or this 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.

**Number of breaches of non-molestation orders
2007, 2008, 2009**

Policing Area	Number of breaches of non-molestation orders		
	1 Jan to 31 Dec 2007	1 Jan to 31 Dec 2008	1 Jan to 31 Dec 2009
Antrim	65	39	55
Ards	37	40	34
Armagh	22	11	43
Ballymena	45	31	49
Ballymoney	13	15	23
Banbridge	37	18	19
East Belfast	33	73	47
North Belfast	77	76	63
South Belfast	37	30	33
West Belfast	62	81	65
Carrickfergus	19	22	18
Castlereagh	23	19	29
Coleraine	49	55	34
Cookstown	19	11	21
Craigavon	89	78	59
Down	69	17	47
Dungannon & S Tyrone	16	11	12
Fermanagh	33	34	18
Foyle	82	129	104
Larne	21	24	25
Limavady	23	35	29
Lisburn	90	87	82
Magherafelt	21	11	8
Moyle	15	3	6
Newry & Mourne	62	50	76
Newtownabbey	33	45	39
North Down	42	36	54
Omagh	19	18	18
Strabane	20	18	19
Service	1,173	1,117	1,129

Source: PSNI Central Statistics Unit

Note: The policing areas of Omagh, Cookstown, Strabane and Dungannon & S Tyrone are broadly equivalent to County Tyrone.

Numbers Convicted of Breach of Non-Molestation Orders

Year	DCU	Number of Convictions
2007	Antrim	32
2007	Newtownards	15
2007	Armagh	7
2007	Banbridge	6
2007	Belfast East	26
2007	Belfast North	41
2007	Belfast south	26
2007	Belfast West	27
2007	Ballymena	42
2007	Ballymoney	4
2007	Carrickfergus	4
2007	Coleraine	15
2007	Cookstown	7
2007	Craigavon	57
2007	Castlereagh	6
2007	Dungannon & South Tyrone	9
2007	Downpatrick	18
2007	Fermanagh	13
2007	Foyle	58
2007	Larne	7
2007	Limavady	12
2007	Lisburn	27
2007	Magherafelt	15
2007	Moyle	3
2007	Newtownabbey	16
2007	North Down	19
2007	Newry & Mourne	30
2007	Omagh	14
2007	Strabane	6
2008	Antrim	25
2008	Newtownards	15
2008	Armagh	9
2008	Banbridge	10
2008	Belfast East	11
2008	Belfast North	32
2008	Belfast south	13
2008	Belfast West	46
2008	Ballymena	21
2008	Ballymoney	3
2008	Carrickfergus	10
2008	Coleraine	18
2008	Cookstown	6
2008	Craigavon	51
2008	Castlereagh	13
2008	Dungannon & South Tyrone	17
2008	Downpatrick	21
2008	Fermanagh	14

Numbers Convicted of Breach of Non-Molestation Orders

2008	Foyle	70
2008	Larne	10
2008	Limavady	17
2008	Lisburn	19
2008	Magherafelt	1
2008	Moyle	5
2008	Newtownabbey	18
2008	North Down	17
2008	Newry & Mourne	27
2008	Omagh	9
2008	Strabane	7
2009	Antrim	26
2009	Newtownards	8
2009	Armagh	14
2009	Banbridge	22
2009	Belfast East	12
2009	Belfast North	22
2009	Belfast south	8
2009	Belfast West	15
2009	Ballymena	18
2009	Ballymoney	12
2009	Carrickfergus	11
2009	Coleraine	13
2009	Cookstown	5
2009	Craigavon	19
2009	Castlereagh	3
2009	Dungannon & South Tyrone	10
2009	Downpatrick	16
2009	Fermanagh	10
2009	Foyle	46
2009	Larne	13
2009	Limavady	10
2009	Lisburn	19
2009	Magherafelt	8
2009	Newtownabbey	7
2009	North Down	12
2009	Newry & Mourne	42
2009	Omagh	17
2009	Strabane	14
		1529

The convictions relate to defendants who live in the DCU outlined and who have been convicted of Breach of Non-Molestation Order.