



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-02276

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Assaults on Pensioners in F District

Request and Answer:

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

Question 1

Please state the number of assaults on pensioners in Dungannon sector in each of the years 2010, 2009 and 2008. Please provide comparison for Cookstown, Northern Ireland and F-District in the same periods.

Question 2

Please state where the highest number of assaults on pensioners in Northern Ireland has occurred in each of the years 2010, 2009 and 2008.

Question 3

Please state the number of prosecutions resulting from assaults on pensioners in Dungannon sector in each of the years 2010, 2009 and 2008. Please provide comparison for Cookstown, Northern Ireland and F-District in the same periods.

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.

It is estimated that the cost of complying with your request for information would 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.

There is no way to connect those victims who were pensioners to the conviction using the PSNI database therefore a manual trawl would need to be undertaken. Based on approximately 15,000 assaults for Northern Ireland over this period it is estimated that at 5 minutes per assault, a manual trawl would take in the region of 1250 hours to retrieve.

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.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland have also considered whether we can be of any assistance in terms of helping you refine your request to bring it under the cost limit however apart from what is provided below this would be impossible even for a single year.

Although excess cost removes the service's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request in relation to questions 1 and 2, 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.

Please see tables below which have been provided by Central Statistics Unit.

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.psni.police.uk

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

Recorded assault offences¹ where the victim is aged² 65 years and over

	2008	2009	1 st Apr-31 st Jul 2010
Northern Ireland	271	289	154
F District	23	29	15
Dungannon & South Tyrone	6	6	3
Cookstown	1	7	4

Source: Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

Areas with highest number of assault offences¹ where the victim is aged² 65 years and over

	Area	Recorded
2008	North Belfast	25
2009	Foyle	26
1 st Apr-31 st Jul 2010	Lisburn	12

Source: Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

¹ Assault offences include wounding with intent, GBH with intent, wounding, GBH, AOABH, aggravated assault and common assault.

² In some cases it is not possible to identify age information on victims. The proportion of Northern Ireland assault offences where the victim age was unknown is 0.3% in 2008, 0.8% in 2009 and 2.7% from 1st April 2010.

Please Note:

Figures from 1st April 2010 are provisional and will be subject to change.