



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F 2010 1820

Keyword: Crime

Subject: RACE/HATE RELATED OSMAN WARNINGS

Request and Answer:

Request

Can you confirm the total number of PM1's 'Osman Warnings' served in 2007 in Northern Ireland.

Can you also let me know the total number of PM1's 'Osman Warnings' served for 2008 and 2009,

The number of these that were racial/hate crime related and a breakdown of these by year and by policing area?

Answer

Threat records for 2008 and 2009 are not categorised in a manner that records further information relating to 'racial/hate crime'. An example might be, a threat is recorded as emanating from dissident republicans but may not record that this is a racial or hate crime.

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.

Following consultation with each of the eight Districts 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. This is because each District would be required to carry out a case by case search to establish if they have any recorded information relating to race/hate on each threat form.

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.

You may wish to submit a refined request in order that the cost of complying with your request may be facilitated within the 'appropriate limit'. Submission of a refined request would be treated as a new request, and considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, including consideration of relevant Part II exemptions. Unfortunately, due to the structure of the information, refining this request may still not provide the requested information.

Section 16 Advice and Assistance

Hate incidents and crimes are officially recorded by Statistics Branch and are available on the below link.

http://www.psni.police.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics/updates_domestic_and_hate_motivation_statistics.htm

This may be of assistance to you.

If you have any queries regarding your request or this decision please do not hesitate to contact 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.