



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-02134

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Recorded Crime and Release to the Media

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 1

Please can I have the number of recorded crimes in your force area in the month of May this year? Please could you break this down into categories of crime?

Answer

Please see the table below detailing recorded crimes by Home Office classification for May 2010.

Question 2

Please can I also have the number of these incidents where details were released to the media in the same month this year? Please could you also break this down into categories of crime?

Answer

During May 2010 the Police Press Office issued press releases or received enquiries from journalists about approximately 760 different incidents. Please see the table below providing a category breakdown of the crimes.

Please note that some of these incidents may not have taken place during May and some will not refer to crimes, for example a large number may refer to road traffic collisions. Due to the number of incidents it is not possible to break down the information further.

The Department of Media and PR has a responsibility to release information where appropriate. We do not release information that may interfere with an ongoing investigation, nor do we release information if it should be withheld for essential legal, operational / investigative or disciplinary reasons, or at the request of a victim or victim's family.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland, Department of Media and PR release information on more serious crimes, murders etc at the direction of a Senior Investigating Officer, who is ultimately in charge of what information is released into the public domain. In most cases information is released in order to make an appeal for information or witnesses, in order to progress the inquiry and assist

the investigation team.

The SIO may also decide NOT to release information and this may be for a number of reasons; for example, there may already be an arrest, detectives may be following a definite line of enquiry, or it may have a negative impact on an ongoing investigation. Information may also not be released to protect the identity of the victim, or at the wishes of the victim or their family. Each case is judged individually and a carefully considered decision taken.

We will also, within the confines of protection of the effectiveness of an investigation and the privacy of an injured person or other member of the public, release details of incidents to journalists on enquiry.

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.

Recorded crime by home office classification

Northern Ireland

May 2010

	Recorded
Offences against the person	2705
Sexual offences	185
Burglary	1101
Robbery	117
Theft	2266
Fraud and Forgery	221
Criminal Damage	2340
Offences against the state	125
Other Notifiable offences	487
Unclassified	6
Total	9553

Source: Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

Please note:

These figures are provisional and will be subject to change.

01/05/10 - 31/05/10 Management Report

Category	No' of Subjects
Assault	62
Burglary/theft/fraud	147
Criminal Damage	109
Drugs	14
Executive(incl campaigns/initiatives/planned events)	17
General	279
Hate Crime	3
Missing Persons	7
Murder	2
Public Order (incl disorder/march/demo)	19
Road Traffic Collisions	47
Robbery	38
Sexual Offences	10
Shooting Incident	6
Total	760