



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-02704
Keyword: Crime
Subject: Sectarian Attacks in Rasharkin

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

Could I have the following information:

How many sectarian attacks were there in Rasharkin last year (calendar year) January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009?

Answer

There have been 51 sectarian motivated crimes recorded, occurring in Rasharkin for this period.

Question 2

How many arrests were there?

Answer

There were 11 arrests.

Question 3

How many charges were there?

Answer

There were 12 charges.

Question 4

How many sectarian attacks were there in Rasharkin this year from January 1, 2010 to September 20, 2010?

Answer

There have been 24 sectarian motivated crimes recorded (including verbal abuse), occurring in Rasharkin for this period.

Question 5

How many arrests were there?

Answer

There were 3 arrests.

Question 6

How many charges were there?

Answer

There were no charges.

A sectarian motivated crime is defined as any crime which is perceived to be sectarian by the victim or any other person. The term 'sectarian', whilst not clearly defined, is a term almost exclusively used in Northern Ireland to describe incidents of bigoted dislike or hatred of members of a different religious or political group. It is broadly accepted that within the Northern Ireland context an individual or group must be perceived to be Catholic or Protestant, Nationalist or Unionist, or Loyalist or Republican. Crimes with a sectarian motivation are a subset of overall recorded crime figures.

Relates to crimes where the recorded address at which the crime occurred is in Rasharkin.

Figures for the current financial year (1 Apr 2010 onwards) are highly provisional and will be subject to change as they are taken from a live crime recording system.

Data Quality: The PSNI's statistics on incidents and crimes with a sectarian 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 sectarian 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.

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.