



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-03739

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Allegations of Abuse at Hospitals

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

A health service report on allegations of abuse at Lissue Hospital near Lisburn and Forster Green Hospital in Belfast has been widely reported in the media.

Under your obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, could I ask please that you would answer the following questions:

Since the story was initially reported on Wednesday 26 October, how many reports of alleged crimes at the hospitals have you received?

Answer

As of the date of your request 6 allegations have been reported to police.

Question 2

During what year(s) did these alleged crimes at the hospitals happen?

Answer

Precise details of the years the alleged crimes took place are unknown at present. Two of the alleged crimes have been recorded as having occurred in 1979 and one of the alleged crimes is recorded as having occurred in 2011. No information on the years the remaining crimes took place is currently held because the people wishing to make the allegations have yet to be consulted. Arrangements have been put in place to speak to them.

Question 3

How many crimes alleged to have taken place at the aforementioned hospital are currently under investigation, and during what year(s) did these alleged crimes happen?

Answer

All reports of crimes are currently under investigation. Please see above with regard to information held on years of occurrence.

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.