



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-03733

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Arrests/Charges under Part III of the Public Order (NI) 1987

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

The number of times in the last five years that persons have been a) arrested and b) charged for acts intended or likely to stir up hatred or arouse fear under Part III of the Public Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 (as amended).

Answer 1

In the last 5 years a total of 5 persons were arrested for acts intended or likely to stir up hatred or arouse fear under Part III of the Public Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 (as amended) , and the total number of persons charged is 18.

Question 2

In relation to the arrest and charge figures (in 1), how many related to the grounds of a) religious belief b) sexual orientation c) disability or d) racial grounds (colour, race, nationality (including citizenship) or ethnic or national origins).

Answer 2

With reference to the answer provided for question 1, for the total of 5 persons arrested, please see below the arrests as per the categorises provided in your request:

(a) religious belief = 2 arrests, (b) sexual orientation = 0 arrests, (c) disability = 0 arrests and (d) racial grounds (colour, race, nationality (including citizenship) or ethnic or national origins) = 0 arrests

With reference to the answer provided for question 1, for the total of 18 persons charged, please see below the charges as per the categorises provided in your request:

(a) religious belief = 7 charges, (b) sexual orientation = 0 charges , (c) disability = 0 charges and (d) racial grounds (colour, race, nationality (including citizenship) or ethnic or national origins) = 1 charge

Question 3

In relation to the arrest and charge figures (in 1) a breakdown of the distinct offences under 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 of the Order.

Answer 3

With reference to the answer provided for question 1, the breakdown of arrests under the 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 of the order are as follows:

There were a total of 5 arrests under Section 9 of the order. There were no arrests under Section 10 and Section 11. The PSNI does not record the total number of arrests under Section 12 and Section 13.

With reference to the answer provided for question 1, the breakdown of charges under the 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 of the order are as follows:

There were a total of 18 charges under Section 9 of the order. There were no charges under Section 10 and Section 11. The PSNI does not record the total number of charges under Section 12 and Section 13.

Please note that the total number of arrests/charges were found by searching all arrest records on the PSNI crime recording system.

It should also be noted that the number of arrests is smaller than the number of charges. This is because there can be multiple charges linked to an arrest record. For example a person could be arrested for public disorder and then charged with several offences as a result of investigations.

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.