



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-01484

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Bomb and Gun Attacks in the past 3 years

Request and Answer:

The Police Service of Northern Ireland has completed its search for the information you have requested.

Question 1

For the past three years please advise the number of bomb attacks in Northern Ireland.

Question 2

For the past three years please advise the number of gun attacks in Northern Ireland.

Question 3

Please advise the total for each month.

Question 4

Please advise how many in each month were reported to the media.

Please inquire as far back into the three years as records allow.

Answer

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.

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 (18 hours).

Our Media and PR department has advised that on average there are 700-800 press releases per month and these are categorised according to the subject type, for example general security, robbery, burglary and murder. To identify and retrieve information in relation to bombing and shooting incidents over the past 3 years would require a trawl of every press release and it is

estimated that this process would take approximately 72 hours. This combined with the cost of retrieving other information requested would therefore exceed the "appropriate costs limit".

In compliance with Section 16 of the Act, I have considered how your request may be refined to bring it under the appropriate limit; however the nature and structure of the information makes this impossible.

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.

I can advise you that Security Situation Statistics can be viewed on the PSNI website and this site provides information in relation to bomb and gun attacks. These statistics can be accessed via the link provided below:

http://www.psni.police.uk/security_related_incidents_fy.pdf

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.