



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-01323

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Crime Statistics in H District

Request and Answer:

I am writing to confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information.

I have today decided to:

- disclose information in response to questions 1 to 3 in full; and
- fully exempt information in response to question 4 pursuant to the provisions of Section 21 of the Act.

Question 1

Are sectarian crimes subsumed under the title of 'Hate Crimes' or are they in a separate category and if so, what category?

Answer

Sectarian offences are part of hate crime but hate crime is not an overall category. It is simply a general terminology used to refer to offences having a motivation identified as having one of the categories below.

The reason these cannot be aggregated is because one offence could have more than one motivation for example racist and homophobic and therefore this would count as one racial motivation offence and one homophobic offence but is actually only one offence. If aggregated this would count as 2 offences.

The following motivations are identified within hate crime: racist, sectarian, homophobic, disability, faith/religion and transphobic.

Question 2

How many sectarian/hate crimes (please differentiate if necessary) were recorded in the Larne division of H District from March 2010 until February 2011 and what percentage of these was detected.

Question 3

How many crimes of arson were recorded in the Larne division of H District from March 2010 until February 2011 and what percentage of these was detected?

Answer

Please refer to the table below:

Recorded and detected hate motivation and arson offences

Larne

1st March 2010 to 28th February 2011

Hate Motivation

	Recorded	Detected
Disability	1	0
Homophobic	2	0
Racist	1	0
Faith/Religion	0	0
Sectarian	35	1
Transphobic	0	0

Arson

	Recorded	Detected
Arson	46	1

Source: Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

Question 4

How many complaints to the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland were made between March 2010 and February 2011 for:

- i. The Larne division of H District
- ii. H District
- iii. All of Northern Ireland

Answer

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states that fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

The following exemption has been applied:

Section 21-Information Reasonably Accessible by Other Means

The information you request is made available within the Police Ombudsman For Northern Ireland website and can be accessed using the following link:

<http://www.policeombudsman.org/publicationsuploads/stats%20bulletin.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.psnipolice.uk

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.