



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-02510

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Honour Based Violence

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

I am requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

Whether the PSNI uses an honour based violence marker to flag incidents or crimes which are thought to be honour related, in line with sections 4.1 and 6.1 of the ACPO Honour Based Violence strategy 2008?

Answer

In March 2011 the PSNI published 'Police Response to Honour Based Violence' Service Procedures outlining how officers should respond to such crimes. The use of the Command & Control system, which is the means by which police officers record reports of crimes allows for the qualifier 'Honour Based Incident' to be used in these circumstances.

The aforementioned Service Procedure states that it is the responsibility of the person closing the Command and Control log to ensure that the correct qualifier is used. This is not a 'flag' or 'marker', but allows officers to better determine the nature of the incident.

The relevant Service Procedure can be accessed via the website link provided below:

http://www.psni.police.uk/index/about-us/publications/publications-by-category/our_policies_and_procedures/service_procedures.htm

Question 2

If so, when the PSNI began using this marker?

Answer

The PSNI has used this qualifier from 2009/10; however, as indicated above, the relevant Service

Procedures relating to HBV have only recently been published and provides corporacy to the use of this classification.

Question 3

Again if so, how many incidents of honour based violence have the PSNI recorded in 2010?

Answer

The PSNI recorded a total of 11 incidents in 2010 by means of this qualifier. However, on analysis it would appear that only 1 incident relates to HBV and the other 10 incidents relate to civil matters.

This is believed to have been caused by a misinterpretation by those inputting information onto the system. The issue of the recent Service Procedure will help to ensure more accurate recording in the future.

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.