



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-00084

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Illegal Parades - Convictions and Cautions

Request and Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) 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

Previous FOI Request F-2010-02042 refers.

Please can you separate the convictions and cautions in the table supplied into:-

- 1) Parades
- 2) Protests.

Answer

Please see the table provided below. It has come to our attention that one conviction in 2009 was omitted in error from the table provided in previous request F-2010-02042. This has now been included.

Year	Cautions for Offences Relating to Illegal Parades	Cautions for Offences Relating to Illegal Protests	Convictions for Offences Relating to Illegal Parades	Convictions for Offences Relating to Illegal Protests
1998	2	0	17	0
1999	0	0	1	0
2000	0	0	7	4
2001	0	0	0	0
2002	0	0	0	0
2003	0	0	9	0
2004	0	0	4	1
2005	2	0	4	1
2006	5	0	1	1
2007	0	0	0	0
2008	0	0	0	0
2009	0	0	0	1
2010	0	0	0	0

The PSNI appreciates the fact that the vast majority of parade organisers go through the formal process of notifying the Parades Commission of their intentions to hold a parade however, where a parade or protest takes place illegally, the police will take appropriate action.

Our priorities are to protect the public, preserve public order, uphold the human rights of all and gather evidence of any wrongdoing. As with all enquiries, investigations into illegal parades are conducted thoroughly and all appropriate evidence considered.

When it comes to the general issue of parades and protests it is incumbent on everyone, from politicians to the wider community, to find long term solutions to the issue rather than merely policing the symptoms.

Question 2

Can we also ask if each conviction and caution in the two categories might be labelled nationalist, loyalist or other please?

Answer

PSNI systems do not label parades and protests as nationalist or loyalist. Therefore the information you have requested is not held.

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.