



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-03821

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Incidents Dealt With August 13 to August 19, 2011

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 and 2 subject to the deletion of information pursuant to the provisions of Section 31 and Section 40 of the Freedom of Information 2000 (the Act).

Question 1

Could you please advise me how many incidents were dealt with by the PSNI, across all District Command Units, between Saturday, August 13, 2011 and Friday, August 19, 2011 inclusive?

Question 2

Also, how many reported offences did the PSNI deal with during the same - broken down into following categories or similar?

Murder or attempted murder/stabbing
GBH/serious assault
Kidnapping
Armed robbery
Other robbery
Petrol bombing
Arson
Rape and other serious sexual assaults
Sexual assault
Burglary
Theft
Fraud and forgery
Drug offences
Public disorder
Other miscellaneous offences

Answer

Please see the table attached below which details incidents and recorded offences reported to the PSNI from 13th to 19th August 2011.

Section 17(1) 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 exemptions, as well as the factors the Department considered when deciding where the public interest lies, are listed below:

Section 40 (2) (a) and (b) by virtue of Section 40 (3) (a) (i) – Personal Information
Section 31 (1) (a) (b) and (c) - Law Enforcement

Harm Test

In relation to the exemption for Personal Information, the statistics provided contain low cell numbers which together with the level of detail requested could lead to individual victims or perpetrators of crime being identified. This would be a breach of the Data Protection Act and is catered for within Freedom Information by the exemptions under Section 40 (2) as outlined below.

Section 40 is a classed-based exemption, therefore it is not necessary to evidence the harm caused by disclosure. The data protection rights of a third party would be breached by disclosure, therefore Section 40 is an absolute exemption and a public interest test is not necessary. This is so because personal data is governed by other law (The Data Protection Act 1998).

All requests made under FOIA are applicant blind. A request must be treated as such and a public authority will always view any disclosure as into the public domain and not just to an individual.

Personal Data is regulated under the principles of the Data Protection Act 1998 and when information contains personal data about a third party it can only be released if disclosure would not breach any of the data protection principles.

Principle 1 is that personal data must only be processed lawfully and fairly. This data was imparted to the PSNI for the purpose of crime recording and carrying out investigations. To process this information for any other purpose, i.e. by releasing it under Freedom of Information, would be unfair to the individuals concerned and therefore a breach of this principle.

Section 31, Law Enforcement is a prejudice based and qualified exemption. This means that the Public Authority must outline the harm and consider the public interest in disclosure.

Harm Test

Due to the low cell numbers any one who had been involved in one of the crime types listed in the time frame specified would be able to establish whether the matter had been reported to police and would be able to take action to avoid detection.

Public Interest Test

Factors Favouring Release

To release these statistics in full would inform public debate and raise awareness of crime and public safety in each District Command Unit.

Factors Favouring Retention

Persons involved in low level crime during this timeframe would be able to use this information to assist them to avoid detection. This would therefore hinder the detection of crime. Knowledge that such information could be obtained in this way would encourage further crime.

Decision

Whilst there are valid reasons for release of this information in line with the reasons for and spirit of the legislation, where such a release has potential to impact on law enforcement issues, making the job of the police more difficult, then the information should not be released and the exemption should be applied.

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.psnj.police.uk

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

Incidents and recorded offences reported to the PSNI from 13th to 19th August 2011

Please Note: These figures are based on information taken from a live crime recording system and will be subject to change

Policing Area	All Incidents	Murder/Attempted murder	GBH with/without intent	Kidnapping	Armed robbery	Other robbery	Petrol Bombing Offences	Arson	Most Serious Sexual Crime	Burglary	Theft	Fraud and Forgery	Drug Offences	Riot and Violent disorder	All other miscellaneous offences	All other offences	Total
Antrim	292									7	14					15	
Ards	332										13					25	52
Armagh	271									10	14					18	48
Ballymena	320									7	23		5			37	81
Ballymoney	129															10	21
Banbridge	197									7						20	36
Carrickfergus	158										6					16	27
Castlereagh	247										10					12	33
Coleraine	434		6							5	19	6				40	81
Cookstown	185										10					34	56
Craigavon	421									13	12		5			44	90
Down	347									11	13					31	62
Dungannon & South Tyrone	294							5		5	15					20	52
East Belfast	408									6	25		6			60	106
Fermanagh	327									5	16		6			37	71
Foyle	629					6	5			7	32	6			12	86	160
Larne	129															9	16
Limavady	163										7					17	29
Lisburn	547									16	27					38	102
Magherafelt	188										10					28	44
Moyle	95									9	6					10	
Newry & Mourne	478									5	27					46	94
Newtownabbey	355									15	16					43	86
North Belfast	667								5	15	39					55	127
North Down	385									9	16					33	67
Omagh	210															15	27
South Belfast	759									21	110		8			78	233
Strabane	167										7					16	
West Belfast	433									8	20		5			40	81
No Assigned DCU	81																
Total	9648		31	6	6	15	6	31	32	207	519	59	63		64	933	1975

S. F 31
 S. F 31 (1)
 S. F 31 (1)(a)
 S. F 31 (1)(b)
 S. F 31 (1)(c)

S. F 40 (2)
 S. F 40 (2)(a)
 S. F 40 (2)(b)
 S. F 40 (3)(a)
 S. F 40 (3)(a)(i)