



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2011-00341

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Paramilitary Style Incidents

### Request and Answer:

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

### Question

I am requesting statistics for the clearance rates of investigations into punishment beatings, including things classified as 'paramilitary style shootings' and 'paramilitary style assaults.' I would like these statistics to cover the last 5 years, and include the most recent statistics available.

I would also like to know the ages of those targeted and a geographic breakdown of the incidents over the last 5 years.

You have clarified that you would be content to receive the requested statistics for the 3 year period instead of the 5 year period.

### Answer

Of the 272 paramilitary attacks identified as having taken place in 2008, 2009 and 2010, 12 have since been regarded as detected/cleared with 3 in 2008 and 9 in 2009. These figures may change as these incidents may still be subject to ongoing investigation and could be detected in the future.

Please see the tables at the end of this correspondence, providing details of paramilitary style assaults and shootings for the period January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2010, broken down into areas and paramilitary style attacks by age for the same period.

Further information in relation to security statistics, can be accessed via the website link below:

[http://www.psnipolice.uk/index/updates/updates\\_statistics/updates\\_security\\_situation\\_and\\_public\\_order\\_statistics.htm](http://www.psnipolice.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics/updates_security_situation_and_public_order_statistics.htm)

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](mailto: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](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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

Of the 272 paramilitary attacks identified as having taken place in 2008, 2009 and 2010, 12 have since been regarded as detected with 3 in 2008 and 9 in 2009. These figures may change as these incidents may still be subject to ongoing investigation and could be detected in the future.

### Casualties as a result of paramilitary style attacks by Area and District

1<sup>st</sup> January 2008 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010

Area	PS Assaults	PS Shootings	Total
North Belfast	29	14	43
West Belfast	13	23	36
<b>A District Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>79</b>
East Belfast	18	-	18
South Belfast	10	-	10
<b>B District Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>28</b>
Ards	6	1	7
Castlereagh	15	-	15
Down	-	1	1
North Down	21	-	21
<b>C District Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>44</b>
Antrim	5	-	5
Carrickfergus	15	-	15
Lisburn	4	17	21
Newtownabbey	9	1	10
<b>D District Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>51</b>
Armagh	2	3	5
Banbridge	1	-	1
Craigavon	1	4	5
Newry and Mourne	-	2	2
<b>E District Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>
Cookstown	-	-	-
Dungannon	-	-	-
Fermanagh	-	-	-
Omagh	-	-	-
<b>F District Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Foyle	6	24	30
Limavady	1	-	1
Magherafelt	-	-	-
Strabane	5	3	8
<b>G District Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>39</b>
Ballymena	3	-	3
Ballymoney	2	-	2
Coleraine	7	1	8
Larne	5	-	5
Moyle	-	-	-
<b>H District Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>NI Overall</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>272</b>

**Casualties as a result of paramilitary style attacks by age**

**1<sup>st</sup> January 2008 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>PS Assaults</b>	<b>PS Shootings</b>	<b>Total</b>
Under 16	6	2	8
16-24	85	36	121
25-34	44	38	82
35-44	25	11	36
45-54	11	7	18
55-54	6	-	6
65 & Over	1	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>272</b>

**Note: Statistics are provisional and may be subject to minor amendment**

**Source: Central Statistics Unit, Police Service of Northern Ireland, Lisnasharragh**