



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-00853

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Paramilitary-Style Casualties

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 and the answers to your questions are as follows.

Question

I would like information regarding the target of paramilitary-style casualties (both shootings and assaults) where loyalists are believed responsible. How many loyalist-attributed paramilitary-style casualties are Protestants/other loyalists (suggesting paramilitary feuding) and how many are Catholics (suggesting sectarian attacks)?

I would like this information provided by financial year from 1994 to the most up to date information you have available.

Answer

Please find below on page numbered 1 a table illustrating Casualties as a Result of Loyalist Paramilitary-Style Attacks by Religion 1994 – 28 February 2011.

Typically a paramilitary style attack is carried out on an individual or individuals by one or more persons usually from their own community. The reasoning behind the attack is usually either to intimidate the victim or to punish them for perceived anti-social activities.

Attribution with regard to Loyalist is as perceived by PSNI based on the information available and does not necessarily indicate the involvement of a paramilitary organisation.

Religion of the victim is perceived using factors such as the victim's name and the area that the attack took place in and verified in a quality check with the Investigating Officer.

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.

Casualties as a Result of Loyalist¹ Paramilitary-Style Attacks by Religion² 1994 – 28 February 2011

| Year | Casualties as a result of Paramilitary Style Shootings | | | | Casualties as a result of Paramilitary Style Assaults | | | |
|--------------|--|----------|---------------------|----------------|---|-----------|---------------------|---------------|
| | Perceived Religion of Victim | | | | Perceived Religion of Victim | | | |
| | Protestant | Catholic | Other/ Not Recorded | Shooting Total | Protestant | Catholic | Other/ Not Recorded | Assault Total |
| 1994 | 68 | 0 | 0 | 68 | 38 | 0 | 0 | 38 |
| 1995 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 76 | 0 | 0 | 76 |
| 1996 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 130 | 0 | 0 | 130 |
| 1997 | 46 | 0 | 0 | 46 | 78 | 0 | 0 | 78 |
| 1998 | 34 | 0 | 0 | 34 | 89 | 0 | 0 | 89 |
| 1999 | 47 | 0 | 0 | 47 | 90 | 0 | 0 | 90 |
| 2000 | 85 | 1 | 0 | 86 | 77 | 0 | 1 | 78 |
| 2001 | 121 | 0 | 0 | 121 | 91 | 2 | 0 | 93 |
| 2002 | 116 | 1 | 0 | 117 | 85 | 4 | 0 | 89 |
| 2003 | 101 | 0 | 0 | 101 | 103 | 0 | 0 | 103 |
| 2004 | 89 | 0 | 0 | 89 | 71 | 0 | 3 | 74 |
| 2005 | 71 | 1 | 2 | 74 | 60 | 0 | 0 | 60 |
| 2006 | 24 | 0 | 1 | 25 | 32 | 0 | 1 | 33 |
| 2007 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 37 | 2 | 0 | 39 |
| 2008 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 27 | 1 | 0 | 28 |
| 2009 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 61 | 3 | 1 | 65 |
| 2010 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 45 | 1 | 0 | 46 |
| 2011 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Total | 831 | 3 | 3 | 837 | 1192 | 13 | 6 | 1211 |

Note: Typically a paramilitary style attack is carried out on an individual or individuals by one or more persons usually from their own community. The reasoning behind the attack is usually either to intimidate the victim or to punish them for perceived anti-social activities.

¹ Attribution is as perceived by PSNI based on the information available and does not necessarily indicate the involvement of a paramilitary organisation.

² Religion is perceived using factors such as the victim's name and the area that the attack took place in and verified in a quality check with the Investigating Officer.

Note: 2010/11 statistics are provisional and may be subject to minor amendment.

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