



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F2011 03309

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Unsolved Murders Investigations

### Request and Answer:

Previous Request F-2011-03008

### Refined Question

In an attempt to bring my requirements in line with what you might actually hold, perhaps I can start by amending my original FOIR to request only the names and ages of victims, dates of death and status of investigation of all unsolved murders in the force area? If the timescale remains an issue, feel free to reduce it until the request edges back within the fees limit.

### Answer

Searches were conducted however these searches failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

Reference F2011-03008 – Unresolved murders, you subsequently refined your request to the names and ages of victims, dates of death and status of the investigation of all unresolved murders and to reduce it until it is within the fees limit.

As stated previously the PSNI do not hold this information in an easily retrievable format and no such list exists.

We are also not obliged to create information in order to answer a request as the FOI Act is in relation to information recorded at the time the request is received. The previous explanation provided was in order to advise you of the individual steps that would need to be taken to compile the information you requested. The term “unresolved” remains an issue as explained in the previous request, “For example, where 3 gunmen carried out an attack and only one is convicted the case is statistically considered to be ‘cleared’. Obviously, in this example 2 suspects are outstanding. This does not even begin to consider suspects who may have assisted the gunmen in any capacity either before or after the murder.”

For your information investigations into murders are currently being carried out by the following:-

Historical Enquiries Team (HET) 1968 to 1998

Re Murder Investigation Team (ReMIT) 10.4.1998 to 1.3.2004

Crime Operations (MIT) 1.3.2004 to date.

Current and live investigations, arrests etc are taking place on a daily basis and a list consisting of the information you requested would therefore be subject to change accordingly, if one existed.

Statistics Branch publishes numerous murder statistics on line which you may also be interested in. See Table 2.2, Table 2.3 and Table 2.4, at the following web link:

[http://www.psni.police.uk/police\\_recorded\\_crime\\_in\\_northern\\_ireland\\_1998-99\\_to\\_2010-11.pdf](http://www.psni.police.uk/police_recorded_crime_in_northern_ireland_1998-99_to_2010-11.pdf)

I trust this will assist to help you understand the complex nature of the investigation of all murders by PSNI.

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.