



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2011-02645

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Abuse against teachers and weapons seized Fermanagh School

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

Can you tell me how many 'deadly weapons' police have seized at schools in Fermanagh over the last five years?

#### Question 2

Can you also provide me with the age groups of those children found in possession of such weapons.

**Clarification was received** can you provide me with the total number of weapon possession offences for each of the last 5 financial years where the location indicates the offence to have occurred at a school in County Fermanagh. For those offences that have been noted as detected, can you provide the age/s of offenders linked to being detected for the related offence/s, and a summary of the type of weapons found to be in their possession.

#### Question 3

Can you tell me how many times police have been called to schools in Fermanagh to deal with physical abuse against staff, i.e. teachers over the last five years?

#### Answer

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit) to provide you the applicant with a notice which states that fact.

It is estimated that the cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the "appropriate costs limit" under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450.

In an attempt to retrieve the information to respond to your request I contacted both Central Statistics and Enniskillen PSNI who are the record owners. However, in relation to question 3, Enniskillen PSNI has confirmed that the records **prior** to 2007 were held on the ICIS computer system and to retrieve this information would involve trawling through each incident within every school in Fermanagh for that period and it is therefore estimated that the total time to retrieve the information

would take an estimated 30 hours. From April 2007 the records are held on the NICHE computer system and we are able to provide this information within cost.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice, and the request has therefore been closed.

You may wish to submit a refined request in order that the cost of complying with your request may be facilitated within the 'appropriate limit'. In compliance with Section 16 of the Act, I have considered how your request may be refined to bring it under the appropriate limit however the nature and structure of the information held prior to 2007 on the ICIS system unfortunately makes this impossible.

Submission of a refined request would be treated as a new request, and considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, including consideration of relevant Part II exemptions.

Although excess cost removes the PSNI's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, I have provided below the information which was retrieved before it was realised that the fees limits would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful but it does not affect our legal right to rely on fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

#### **In relation to Questions 1 and 2 above.**

##### **Answer**

Within the Fermanagh policing area in the last five years, the PSNI have 1 recorded incident of a weapon possession related offence where the location information indicates the occurrence to have taken place at a school. This offence has also been detected where the offender has been identified as being aged over 18 years.

#### **In relation to Question 3 above.**

##### **Answer**

There have been two incidents since April 2007.

Please note that these figures are based on information taken from a live crime recording system and may be subject to change.

The detail recorded offences are where location information indicates the offence to have taken place at, or near, a school. Please note incidents may not necessarily have occurred on school premises and may have occurred outside school hours including weekends and holidays and may not necessarily have involved pupils or staff.

If you have any queries regarding your request or this 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.