



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-00273

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Illegal Parades

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 1

How many prosecutions have the police directed for organising or taking part in illegal parades? In which years?

Please advise figures since the formation of the parades commission;-

Please note I specifically request the figures do NOT include any incidents of public disorder, rioting or violence etc

ie I am asking about illegal parade or protest offences only please.

Answer

The Crime Recording systems used by the PSNI have provided the following details with regard to people reported for prosecution for organising or taking part in illegal parades from 1997 (Formation of Parades Commission) to 31/03/2008.

1997 64	2001 4	2005 96
1998 25	2002 6	2006 15
1999 19	2003 37	2007 4
2000 14	2004 39	2008 4

In 2008 the PSNI Crime Recording systems changed. The figures in 2008 include both systems. The figures from 2008 to 2010 extracted from the new systems are as follows. The previous system showed reported however the new system records as charged and also reported to Public Prosecution Service (PPS). Charged relates to an offence that will be going to court and reported has been forwarded to the PPS for directions.

2008

0 charged 1 reported

2009

0 charged 1 reported

2010

9 charged 1 reported

Question 2

How many prosecutions have the police directed for organising or taking part in illegal parade-related protests? In which years?

Answer

The Crime Recording systems used by the PSNI have provided the following details with regard to people reported for prosecution for organising or taking part in illegal parade related protests from 1997 (Formation of Parades Commission) to 31/03/2008.

1997 1	2001 0	2005 2
1998 0	2002 0	2006 3
1999 0	2003 0	2007 0
2000 6	2004 6	2008 0

In 2008 the PSNI Crime Recording systems changed. The figures in 2008 include both systems. The figures from 2008 to 2010 extracted from the new systems are as follows. The previous system showed reported however the new system records as charged and also reported to Public Prosecution Service (PPS). Charged relates to an offence that will be going to court and reported has been forwarded to the PPS for directions.

2008

0 charged 0 reported

2009

0 charged 0 reported

2010

2 charged 2 reported

Question 3

How many related i) convictions and ii) cautions have there been for 1) and in which years?

Question 4

How many related i) convictions and ii) cautions have there been for 2) and in which years?

Question 5

Please specify the number of i) cautions and ii) convictions against Protestant/Unionist organisations for organising or taking in part in illegal parades? and parade related protests?

Question 6

Please specify the number of i) cautions and ii) convictions against Catholic/nationalist organisations for organising or taking in part in illegal parades? and parade related protests?

Answer

With regard to questions 3,4,5 and 6 I can advise responses have already been provided to these and can be viewed at

http://www.psni.police.uk/illegal_parades.pdf

http://www.psni.police.uk/illegal_parades-2.pdf

Question 7

How many directions to prosecute have there been since Sept 2010 by the PSNI for illegal parades or parade related protests?

Answer

PSNI Information and Communication Services Branch have advised the Crime Recording systems show that since 01/09/2010

5 persons have been charged and 1 reported to the PPS

Question 8

How many convictions have there been since Sept 2010 for illegal parades or parade related protests?

Answer

I have been advised that 2 persons have been convicted since September 2010, the other four cases are continuing.

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.psni.police.uk

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