



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-00660

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Information in Relation to Disability Hate Crime

Request and Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested and the answer to your questions are as follows:

Question 1

Firstly please can you tell us what level of disability hate crime has been recorded in your constabulary's area during the period of 2009/10 and for all periods for which data is available?

Answer

Your request for information has now been considered and I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states the fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 it has been decided to refuse access to the information you have requested.

Section 21 - Information Reasonably Accessible by Other Means - provides that information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means is exempt information.

The information you have requested is available from the Police Service of Northern Ireland's Publication Scheme. To access Hate Incidents and Crimes please visit our website at http://www.psni.police.uk/3_08_09_hate_incidents_and_crimes.pdf

Question 2

Secondly what level of anti social behaviour with a disabled victim has been recorded in your constabulary's area during the period of 2009/10 and for all periods for which data is available?

Answer

Please see figures below for the total number of 2009/10 Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) incidents that also have a disability motivation as well.

2007/08 - 3 ASB incidents having a disability motivation;
2008/09 - 8 ASB incidents having a disability motivation; and
2009/10 - 6 ASB incidents having a disability motivation.

Question 3

Finally we would like to know if your force has a policy for tackling disability hate crime? If your constabulary does have such a policy we would also like any information on it such as data relating to its implementation etc.

Answer

Hate Crime Policy was implemented on 21st March 2006. Version 4 was issued on 12th December 2008. It was reviewed and amended on 13th December 2009 however has not been reissued to the service yet. It will be made available, on external web site, when issued to the organisation.

Version 4 Policy on Hate Crime can be found in our website at
http://www.psni.police.uk/policy_directive_0206_police_response_to_hate_incidents.pdf

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.