



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2012-04167

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Crimes Involving Facebook and Twitter

Request and Answer:

Question 1

The number of reported crimes the PSNI has recorded in each of the past four years - 2009, 2010, 2011 - and so far in 2012 (up to today 16th October), which involved the words 'Facebook' or 'Twitter'?

Answer

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has now completed its search for the information you requested. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full.

Please see the figures below which detail the number of incidents where Facebook or Twitter were mentioned in the incident investigation logs. The ability to search investigation logs electronically commenced on 14/10/2009, therefore statistics have been provided from this date onwards.

14/10/2009 - 31/12/2009 inclusive: 3
01/01/2010 - 31/12/2010 inclusive: 71
01/01/2011 - 31/12/2011 inclusive: 1535
01/01/2012 - 16/10/2012 inclusive: 2116

Question 2

How many people has the PSNI arrested in 2009, 2010, 2011 and so far in 2012 (up to today 16th October) under section 127 of the Communications Act 2003?

Answer

There have been 66 arrest records created between 01/01/2009 and 16/10/2012 inclusive.

Question 3

How many people were subsequently a) charged and b) convicted for these offences in 2009, 2010, 2011 and so far in 2012 (up to today 16th October)?

Answer

32 people were subsequently charged.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold details of convictions. This information should

be requested from the Northern Ireland Court Service. Details of how to contact them are available on their website which can be accessed using the link below:

<http://www.courtsni.gov.uk/en-GB/AboutUs/Freedom%20of%20Information/Pages/default.aspx>

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.psnipolice.uk

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