



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2012-01381

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Crimes Involving Social Media

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

Please state how many times Facebook and/or Twitter have been mentioned in PSNI crime reports in each of the last three years (2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12).

Answer

Whilst the information you have requested may sit within our systems we are only able to provide answers for the financial year 2011-2012 as the ability to electronically search this information was introduced at the beginning of 2011. The systems are not set up to easily provide us with the type of information you have requested for earlier years.

The figures below relate to the total number of incidents where facebook/twitter were mentioned as part of the investigations, i.e. in the incident investigation log.

Time period: 01/04/2011 - 31/03/2012 inclusive

Number of times Facebook mentioned: 1774

Number of times Twitter mentioned: 44

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.