



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2012-01551

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Hate Crimes

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. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full.

Question 1

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I seek the total number of recorded hate crimes in your police area for each of the years 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011.

For each year, please provide the overall recorded number of hate crimes and figures for each of the five monitored forms of hate crime classifications used by the criminal justice system (disability, race, religious belief, sexual orientation and transgender).

Question 2

Additionally, for each year please include the figure for total recorded Anti-Semitic hate crimes.

Answer

Please see the table and additional notes at the end of this correspondence, detailing hate motivated crimes from 2008 to 2011.

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.

Hate Motivated Crimes Recorded 2008 to 2011

Hate motivation type ¹	2008	2009	2010	2011
Disability	25	44	30	23
Racist	717	782	575	470
Faith/Religion	34	21	14	9
Homophobic	133	110	128	138
Transphobic	1	5	5	6

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch

Anti-Semitic hate crimes have been identified by examining all Faith/Religion motivated hate crimes for those which were Anti-Semitic in nature.

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Faith/Religion motivated hate crimes of an Anti-Semitic nature	2	7	0	4

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch

¹Hate Motivation Definitions

The PSNI have adopted the definition for racially motivated incidents recommended by the Stephen Lawrence enquiry, namely 'Any incident, which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person.' Additionally the PSNI also use the principles of this definition to record all types of hate incidents as listed below, along with their definitions:

Racist Incidents

A racist incident is defined as any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person. A racial group can be defined as a group of persons defined by reference to race, colour, nationality or ethnic or national origins (this includes UK National origins i.e. Scottish, English, Welsh and Irish) and references to a person's racial group refer to any racial group into which he/she falls. Racial group includes the Irish Traveller community.

Homophobic Incidents (sexual orientation)

A homophobic incident is defined as any incident which is perceived to be homophobic by the victim or any other person. Homophobia can be defined as a fear or dislike directed towards lesbian, gay or bisexual people, or a fear or dislike directed towards their perceived lifestyle,

culture or characteristics. Sexual orientation can be defined as an individual's preference for a particular sex (be it the opposite or the same), or an individual's view of their own sexuality.

Sectarian Incidents

A sectarian incident is defined as any incident which is perceived to be sectarian by the victim or any other person. The term 'sectarian', whilst not clearly defined, is a term almost exclusively used in Northern Ireland to describe incidents of bigoted dislike or hatred of members of a different religious or political group. It is broadly accepted that within the Northern Ireland context an individual or group must be perceived to be Catholic or Protestant, Nationalist or Unionist, or Loyalist or Republican.

Faith/Religious Incidents (non-sectarian)

A faith/religious incident is defined as any incident which is perceived to be based upon prejudice towards or hatred of the faith of the victim or so perceived by the victim or any other person. A faith or religious group can be defined as a group of persons defined by reference to religious belief or lack of religious belief. This would include Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs and different sects within a religion. It also includes people who hold no religious belief at all.

Disability (or Disablist) Incidents

A disability related incident is defined as any incident which is perceived to be based upon prejudice towards or hatred of the victim because of their disability or so perceived by the victim or any other person. Disability can be defined as any physical or mental impairment which has substantial and long-term adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day to day activities.

Transphobic Incidents

A transphobic incident is defined as any incident which is perceived to be transphobic by the victim or any other person. Gender should not be confused with sexual orientation. A transsexual is a person who has 'gender dysphoria' or dissatisfaction with his or her own birth gender. Transsexuals may be lesbian, gay, bisexual or heterosexual and may or may not consider an incident perpetrated against them to be homophobic.

A crime will be recorded as having a hate motivation where it meets the relevant definition provided above. Not all hate motivated incidents will result in the recording of a crime. Hate motivated crimes are classified according to the Home Office Counting Rules and form a subset of the overall police recorded crime statistics.

An explanation of what constitutes an incident and a crime is provided in Section 2.1 of the [Crime User Guide](#).