



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2012-02473

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Incidents of "Honour Based Violence"

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

How many incidents of "honour based violence" were recorded by your force in 2011 and 2012?

Answer

The PSNI's Central Statistics unit have searched the Command and Control system and identified 2 incidents which occurred in 2011/2012 where the Honour Based Incident qualifier has been applied correctly as per the definition below:

Honour Based Incident definition:

Where a clearly identifiable crime or incident has occurred this qualifier is to be used to ensure that any characteristics of 'honour-based' activity around the incident are captured. Honour-based violence is defined as: A crime or incident which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and / or the community. Honour-based violence can affect both men and women, and cuts across a number of cultures and communities. It is closely associated with domestic abuse and child protection matters.

Issues such as dress, choice of friends, relationships with members of the opposite sex and career choice among others could all impact on a family's honour and therefore lead to honour-based violence.

There are many examples of how honour-based violence can impact on someone's life including being isolated from local communities, not being allowed independence, forced into marriage or under duress from their family. In every case police have a responsibility to ensure safety, whether that is by offering advice or prosecuting offenders.

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.