



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2012-01253

Keyword: Crime

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

Question 1

How many people were arrested for alleged knife crimes in the periods January 1st, 2010 - December 31st, 2010 and January 1st, 2011- December 31st, 2011?

Answer

There were a total of 96 arrests, from January 1st, 2010 - December 31st, 2010.
There were a total of 86 arrests, from January 1st, 2011 - December 31st, 2011.

Question 2

How many people were arrested for alleged knife crimes in Belfast in the periods January 1st, 2010 - December 31st, 2010 and January 1st, 2011- December 31st, 2011?

Answer

Please note these figures provided only refer to East, North, South and West Belfast areas.

There were a total of 26 arrests, from January 1st, 2010 - December 31st, 2010.
There were a total of 46 arrests, from January 1st, 2011 - December 31st, 2011.

Question 3

How many people were convicted of knife crimes in the same periods?

Question 4

How many people were convicted of knife crimes in Belfast in the same periods?

Answer

PSNI do not hold the information to which you seek access, however this information can be obtained from the N.I Court Service and I have provided the link below to their FOI Department:

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

Question 5

How many people were killed by the use of a knife in the same periods?

Question 6

How many people were killed by the use of a knife in Belfast in the same periods?

Answer

Please find the responses attached in the table at the end of this correspondence.

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.psnj.police.uk

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

Recorded Knife and Sharp Instrument¹ Homicide² Crime

Please note: the records used to provide the figures below are identified from an operational crime recording system and, as such, may be subject to change where more up-to-date weapon information becomes available.

	Northern Ireland	Belfast ³
2010	6	1
2011	8	2

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch

1. Since April 2007 the Home Office has collected additional data from police forces on offences involving knives and sharp instruments, where a sharp instrument is any object that pierces the skin (or in the case of a threat is capable of piercing the skin), e.g. a broken bottle. Knives and sharp instruments are taken to be involved in an incident if they are used to stab or cut, or as a threat.

2. Homicide includes murder, manslaughter and infanticide.

3. Belfast is defined as North, South, West and East Belfast Policing Areas.