



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2012-02790

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Sectarian/Hate Crimes investigated by the RUC/PSNI

### Request and Answer:

I make the following request under the Freedom of Information Act.

#### Question 1

Can you please confirm how many sectarian/hate crime incidents the RUC/PSNI has investigated in the Leckagh Estate in Magherafelt in each year since 1997?

#### Question 2

Can you confirm the religion of each victim?

#### Question 3

Can you provide details of each incident, ie, verbal, graffiti, damage to property, etc?

#### Question 4

If possible, can you include how many explosive devices and hoax bomb alerts have been left at homes in the estate in each year since 1997?

#### Question 5

Again, can you confirm the religion of each victim?

### Answer

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit) to provide you the applicant with a notice which states that fact.

It is estimated that the cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the "appropriate costs limit" under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at 18 hours/ £450. Please note that when one part of a request exceeds the cost and Section 12 is applied, the whole request is considered over the cost.

To find out the answers to questions 1 and 3 would be over the cost because the information is not retained centrally. An interrogation of the Police Command and Control System would have to be carried out for an 8 year period from 1997 to 2005, when Statistics Branch started collating the figures.

Each day would have to be researched and each incident checked against the address. If a Leckagh address was found, the entry would have to be opened up and information dismissed or recorded to answer the questions asked.

This work is estimated to exceed the 18 hour limit and considered a disproportionate cost and be detrimental to staff providing a service to frontline policing.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice, and the request has therefore been closed.

### **Section 16 – Duty to provide advice and assistance**

You may wish to submit a refined request in order that the cost of complying with your request may be facilitated within the 'appropriate limit'. In compliance with Section 16 of the Act, I have considered how your request may be refined to bring it under the appropriate limit and you may wish to refine your request to question 1 from 2005 and question 4 in relation to explosive devices.

Submission of a refined request would be treated as a new request, and considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, including consideration of relevant Part II exemptions.

If you have any queries regarding your request or this 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](mailto: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](http://www.psnipolice.uk)

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