



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2012-00857

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Social Media 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

I am submitting a Freedom of Information request on the subject of alleged crimes committed on social media sites such as Twitter and Facebook.

People racially abusing / trolling other users etc

How many crimes have been reported over the past 12 months?

### Answer

Searches were conducted however these searches failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided. PSNI do not record the number of crimes committed on social media sites such as Twitter or Facebook. Current PSNI systems do not have a 'drop down' facility which includes Twitter and Facebook to filter these alleged types of crimes. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

However, PSNI can provide the total number of incidents where 'facebook' or 'twitter' have been mentioned as part of investigations.

In 2011 there were 1,455 incidents where 'facebook' was mentioned during investigations.  
In 2011 there were 29 incidents where 'twitter' was mentioned during investigations.

### Question 2

How much has it cost over the past 12 months to investigate?

### Answer

Searches were conducted however these searches failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided. PSNI do not record

investigation costs for such incidents, separately. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

### **Question 3**

Do you have a budget for investigating these alleged incidents?

### **Answer**

There is no separate budget for investigating this type of incident.

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](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.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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