



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2012-01386

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Suicide Statistics

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

I would like up to date statistics on suicides in your region over the last year. I would also like details from previous years so I can compare.

You previously clarified that you required 5 years of data for comparison.

Answer

PSNI do not record incidents of suicide as a crime. Cases involving a sudden or unexplained death are initially recorded as an 'Incident - Sudden Death' on PSNI systems. When an incident is closed by the Call Manager, he/she has the option of classing an incident as a suspected suicide however; this action is optional and not always completed.

The Coroner has the responsibility of determining whether or not a sudden death should be classed as a suicide and The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) publishes statistics in relation to suicides on their website. This information can be accessed via the link provided below:

http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/publications/qtr_report/qtr4_2011.pdf

The following figures reflect the numbers of cases which have been recorded as suspected suicides by PSNI; however accuracy of these figures cannot be guaranteed and may not reflect the total number of suicides in Northern Ireland.

01/01/2006 - 31/12/2006 35 incidents of suspected suicide
01/01/2007 - 31/12/2007 22 incidents of suspected suicide
01/01/2008 - 31/12/2008 17 incidents of suspected suicide
01/01/2009 - 31/12/2009 12 incidents of suspected suicide
01/01/2010 - 31/12/2010 33 incidents of suspected suicide
01/01/2011 - 31/12/2011 33 incidents of suspected suicide
01/01/2012 - 01/04/2012 9 incidents of suspected suicide

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.