



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2013-04681

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Hoax/Genuine Bomb Calls

Request and Answer:

Question 1

Can you tell me the number of hoax alerts in Northern Ireland over the last 5 years?

Question 2

Can this be broken down into republican/loyalist/other categories?

Question 3

How many real bomb alerts were carried out in the same time period?

Question 4

Can this again be broken down into republican/loyalist/other categories?

You previously clarified you are requesting the number of times police were called out on hoax alerts either by a hoax caller or someone who believed an object was suspicious and it wasn't or was deemed to be made to look like something mimicking a device in that time period and how many genuine devices were discovered in the same time period.

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.

In the last 5 years, PSNI has recorded 1,766 hoax bomb calls. In addition to this figure, 420 calls received resulted in a genuine device.

Prior to your clarification, you had previously requested a breakdown of republican/loyalist/other attribution. For your information, retrieval of this information would require a manual trawl of each serial and would equate to approximately 109.3 hours, grossly exceeding the 18 hour cost limit.

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.