



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2013-06112

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Racist Attacks and Incidents in 2013

Request and Answer:

Question

I would like to request information regarding the number of racially motivated crimes/incidents in Northern Ireland to take place during 2013 so far.

Specifically with regards to: violent crimes, acts of vandalism, intimidation with a racist motivation, and civil unrest.

Answer

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested and the response is as follows.

Please see the tables at the end of this correspondence which relate to all racist motivated incidents and crimes recorded by the police. The racist crimes are split by crime types published in the annual statistical bulletin **Trends in Hate Motivated Incidents and Crimes in Northern Ireland 2004/05 to 2012/13**.

To put the latest figures into context, the information provided relates to the requested period as well as data back to 2004/05 already published in this bulletin. I have indicated in the response that criminal damage offences could be used as an indication of 'acts of vandalism'. In addition I have indicated that civil unrest cannot be specifically identified, although less serious civil unrest could be captured within the incidents figures, whereas more serious civil unrest could be captured under the 'other crimes against society' crime category.

Further information can be accessed via the PSNI website using the link provided below.

http://www.psni.police.uk/directory/updates/updates_statistics/updates_domestic_and_hate_motivati_on_statistics.htm#domestic_trends_latest_bulletin

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.

Total incidents recorded with a racist motivation¹

										Numbers
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	1 Jan to 30 Nov 2013 ²
Total incidents recorded (racist motivation)	813	936	1,047	976	990	1,038	842	696	750	875

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch

Recorded crimes with a racist motivation¹ by offence type

Offence										Numbers
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	1 Jan to 30 Nov 2013 ²
Victim-based crime										
5D Assault with intent to cause serious harm	4	5	7	2	12	8	10	16	14	18
8N Assault with injury	105	161	170	133	123	83	92	72	93	81
All other violence with injury (including homicide)	1	1	1	0	2	2	0	1	0	0
Violence with injury (including homicide)	110	167	178	135	137	93	102	89	107	99
3B Threats to kill	10	25	10	20	17	24	21	15	16	26
8L Harassment: of which	60	68	48	50	44	46	39	36	30	57
<i>Intimidation</i>	43	51	28	21	13	20	20	17	17	14
105A Assault without injury	75	66	72	69	87	101	71	76	85	122
All other violence without injury	3	6	2	1	2	7	1	1	1	0
Violence without injury	148	165	132	140	150	178	132	128	132	205
Total violence against the person offences	258	332	310	275	287	271	234	217	239	304
Theft - burglary offences	16	23	11	15	10	15	6	3	6	8
Theft - vehicle offences	8	5	8	9	5	5	7	3	2	4
All other theft offences	13	13	8	9	8	6	8	5	7	12
Total theft offences	37	41	27	33	23	26	21	11	15	24
56A Arson endangering life, 56B Arson not endangering life	20	24	47	37	28	22	16	14	16	19
58A Criminal damage to a dwelling	189	222	312	243	253	239	143	135	110	129
58C Criminal damage to a vehicle	67	48	97	105	113	83	69	48	48	59
58B/58D All other criminal damage	43	53	43	44	40	47	28	25	29	30
Total criminal damage offences	319	347	499	429	434	391	256	222	203	237
All other victim-based crimes (including other fraud)	11	8	11	9	15	8	12	3	6	0
Other crimes against society										
Other crimes against society	9	18	14	11	12	16	8	5	7	10
Total recorded crime (racist motivation) - all offences	634	746	861	757	771	712	531	458	470	575

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch

¹ Further details on Police Recorded Crime statistics, including those with a hate motivation, are available in the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics in Northern Ireland](#). This is a reference guide with explanatory notes regarding the issues and classifications which are key to the production and presentation of police recorded crime statistics. The [hate motivation definitions](#) upon which these statistics are based are also available in this user guide and on the PSNI Internet site.

² Please note that there is three months overlap between the time periods of 2012/13 (1 April 2012 to 31 Mar 2013) and the period 1 Jan 2013 to 30 Nov 2013. Data for the current financial year (1 April 2013 onwards) are provisional and will be subject to change until the finalised 2013/14 data are published.

³ Criminal damage offences could be used as an indication of 'acts of vandalism'.

⁴ Civil unrest cannot be specifically identified, although less serious civil unrest could be captured within the incidents figures, whereas more serious civil unrest could be captured under the 'other crimes against society' crime category.

Data Quality: While crimes included within the police recorded crime statistics for Northern Ireland are individually checked for compliance with the Home Office Counting Rules by the PSNI's Statistics Branch, the identification of a hate motivation is derived from a motivation 'tick box' on the system used by PSNI to record crime. The motivation is identified and completed by a police officer or member of police staff for each such reported incident or crime. The correct application of a hate motivation for all such incidents/crimes is not quality assured by the PSNI's Statistics Branch, but audits and data quality checks are routinely conducted in an attempt to ensure that any under or over-recording is corrected.