



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2013-04886

**Keyword:** Organisational Information/Governance

**Subject:** HET Investigations

### Request and Answer:

#### Question

I would like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act regarding the HET. As a member of the public I would like any information on the number of investigations carried out so far by the HET and the percentage which involves crimes classed as "republican" and "loyalist" sections of the community. Any help in this matter would be appreciated.

#### 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.

The Historical Enquiries Team (HET) was created in 2005 and began work at the end of January 2006. Until the publication of the HMIC report in July 2013 the HET had three objectives:

To assist in bringing a measure of 'resolution' to the families of victims whose deaths are attributable to 'The Troubles' in the years 1968 to pre-Belfast/Good Friday agreement 1998;

To re-examine all deaths attributable to 'The Troubles' and ensure that all investigative and evidential opportunities are subject to thorough and exhaustive examination in a manner that satisfies the PSNI's obligation of an 'Effective Investigation' Article 2, Code of Ethics for PSNI;

To do so in a way that commands the confidence of the wider community.

The HET remit relates to 2,555 cases involving 3,260 Victims. To date, the HET has completed and concluded 1,905 cases involving 2,438 Victims. The HET does not classify or record these cases in the categories of "republican" and "loyalist".

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.psnipolice.uk](http://www.psnipolice.uk)

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