



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2013-04713

**Keyword:** Organisational Information/Governance

**Subject:** Police Dog Incidents

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

Could you provide, under the Freedom of Information Act, the number of attacks on innocent bystanders who have been bitten by police dogs in each of the past three years (2011, 2012, 2013 to date). For each incident please provide:

#### 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.

Between 1/1/2011 and 30/09/2013 there has been one incident where a bystander was accidentally bitten by a police dog.

#### Question 2

How much compensation was paid out to each victim?

#### Answer

No compensation has been paid out within the timeframe.

#### Question 3

The circumstances of the attack?

#### Answer

Police were conducting a search for an offender when the individual stepped out from behind a tree.

#### Question 4

The age of the victim?

#### Answer

11 years old.

#### Question 5

What injuries were suffered?

**Answer**

Bite to groin area.

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.