



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2014-03232

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Hate Crimes Reported to PSNI From January 1 2014

Request and Answer:

Question

Please provide me with details of all hate crimes that have been reported to the PSNI in Belfast since 01/01/2014.

Within this information please include a breakdown of the nature of these crimes i.e. whether they were sectarian or racially motivated etc.

Please also include information as to whether these incidents were verbal or physical or both.

Clarification received: Please provide the requested information without indicating if they were verbal in nature so as to avoid going over the FOI hour's limit.

Would it be possible for you to indicate which parts of Belfast these crimes took place in?

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.

Please find attached at the end of this correspondence the information requested for crimes with a racist or sectarian motivation recorded by each of the Belfast policing areas from January 1, 2014 – June 30, 2014.

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.psnj.police.uk

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

Crimes with a racist or sectarian motivation¹ recorded by the police for each of the Belfast policing areas, 1st January 2014 to 30th June 2014²

Policing Area	Type of Crime	Crimes with a racist motivation ¹	Crimes with a sectarian motivation ¹
East Belfast	Violence with injury	12	11
	Violence without injury	16	13
	Of which:		
	<i>Assault without injury</i>	10	7
	<i>Threats to kill / harassment</i>	6	6
	Criminal damage	37	30
	All other offences	6	7
	Total all offences East Belfast	71	61
North Belfast	Violence with injury	5	22
	Violence without injury	24	17
	Of which:		
	<i>Assault without injury</i>	7	5
	<i>Threats to kill / harassment</i>	17	12
	Criminal damage	45	42
	All other offences	3	3
	Total all offences North Belfast	76	84
South Belfast	Violence with injury	14	13
	Violence without injury	22	12
	Of which:		
	<i>Assault without injury</i>	15	5
	<i>Threats to kill / harassment</i>	7	7
	Criminal damage	34	17
	All other offences	3	7
	Total all offences South Belfast	73	49
West Belfast	Violence with injury	3	3
	Violence without injury	5	11
	Of which:		
	<i>Assault without injury</i>	3	5
	<i>Threats to kill / harassment</i>	2	6
	Criminal damage	10	12
	All other offences	0	5
	Total all offences West Belfast	18	31
All of Belfast	Violence with injury	34	49
	Violence without injury	67	53
	Of which:		
	<i>Assault without injury</i>	35	22
	<i>Threats to kill / harassment</i>	32	31
	Criminal damage	126	101
	All other offences	12	22
	Total all offences All of Belfast	239	225

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 provided below and are also available in this user guide and on the PSNI Internet site.

² Data for the current financial year (1 April 2014 onwards) are provisional and will be subject to change until the finalised 2014/15 data are published.

Racist Incidents: A racist incident is defined as any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person. A racial group can be defined as a group of persons defined by reference to race, colour, nationality or ethnic or national origins (this includes UK National origins i.e. Scottish, English, Welsh and Irish) and references to a person's racial group refer to any racial group into which he/she falls. Racial group includes the Irish Traveller community.

Sectarian Incidents: A sectarian incident is defined as any incident which is perceived to be sectarian by the victim or any other person. The term 'sectarian', whilst not clearly defined, is a term almost exclusively used in Northern Ireland to describe incidents of bigoted dislike or hatred of members of a different religious or political group. It is broadly accepted that within the Northern Ireland context an individual or group must be perceived to be Catholic or Protestant, Nationalist or Unionist, or Loyalist or Republican.

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, 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.