



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2014-01388

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Violent Crimes Against Members Of The Clergy

Request and Answer:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, please can I receive the following information in electronic format (.XLS)?

Question 1

How many violent crimes against members of the clergy have been reported over the last 3 calendar years (including a year by year breakdown of the number of crimes)?

I would define members of the clergy as professions such as deacons, priests, bishops, preachers, vicars, ministers, imams (or what ever you feel is a suitable definition). I would define violent crime as all violence specifically against a member of clergy - such as sexual offences, robbery, assault, etc.

Question 2

When supplying the information please also provide a breakdown of the time of all of crimes that have occurred against clergy members.

If possible please provide it in the format of:

[type of crime], [date], [clergy member type] e.g. "assault, 01/01/01, vicar".

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 see the attached table below. It should be noted that the information supplied is based on data extracted from a live system and may be subject to change. It is dependent on the information having been input into the system in such a way as to identify those records that are relevant.

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.psnipolice.uk

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

Offences of violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery against members of the clergy reported to the police in Northern Ireland in 2011, 2012 and 2013¹

Date Reported ¹	Type of Crime ²	Clergy Member Type ³	Time Occurred From ⁴
24/01/2011	Assault with injury	Minister	22:20
07/02/2011	Assault without injury	Church officer	20:00
21/02/2011	Threats to kill	Church officer	16:10
04/04/2011	Harassment	Vergers	
21/04/2011	Sexual Offence	Priest	
16/08/2011	Threats to kill	Priest	11:29
02/09/2011	Assault with injury	Minister	12:40
22/09/2011	Threats to kill	Church officer	19:00
19/10/2011	Assault without injury	Church officer	01:53
24/10/2011	Sexual Offence	Priest	
27/10/2011	Harassment	Minister	09:00
05/11/2011	Assault with injury	Church officer	23:55
15/11/2011	Assault without injury	Minister	20:00
10/12/2011	Assault with injury	Church officer	02:35
23/12/2011	Harassment	Vicar	15:01
27/01/2012	Assault without injury	Priest	08:00
07/03/2012	Sexual Offence	Nun	12:00
18/05/2012	Assault without injury	Church officer	22:40
16/07/2012	Assault with injury	Minister	20:02
15/08/2012	Robbery	Priest	19:20
04/10/2012	Harassment	Minister	22:00
25/10/2012	Assault with injury	Church officer	21:45
14/01/2013	Causing death or serious injury by careless or inconsiderate driving	Priest	
25/01/2013	Harassment	Priest	08:00
27/01/2013	Assault with injury	Priest	03:00
18/08/2013	Robbery	Missionary worker	21:00
12/10/2013	Robbery	Priest	15:15
05/11/2013	Robbery	Priest	18:20
20/12/2013	Harassment	Priest	22:00

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch

Please note: This information is based on data extracted from a live system and may be subject to change. It is dependent on the information having been input into the system in such a way as to identify those records that are relevant.

1Records are included based on the date the offence was reported to the police. Data from 1st April to 31st December 2013 is provisional and may be subject to change.

2Includes offences of violence against the person, robbery and sexual offences.

3Members of clergy were selected based on where the victim's occupation was available and listed as Religious - this includes Bishops, Church officers, Deacons, Evangelists, Imams, Ministers, Missionary workers, Monks, Nuns, Preachers, Priests, Salvation army officer, Vergers, Vicar.

4The time used is the time the incident occurred (where this is available). This may differ to the time the incident was reported to the police.