



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2014-04539

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Hate Crime Incident

Request and Answer:

Question

In relation to the hate crime on a pagan priest in a shopping complex in Belfast on Saturday 13 September.

Was this the first hate crime of its kind (an attack on a pagan priest) in Northern Ireland?

Below is the police line.

Commenting on this incident, Inspector Alan Swann, Woodbourne Neighbourhood Policing Team, said: "On Saturday, 13 September, Police received a report of an incident in a shopping complex on the Donegall Road, Belfast, when comments were directed at a male in a shop. Enquiries are continuing."

For guidance - this is being treated as a hate crime.

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.

This is the first religious hate crime of this kind that has been reported to and recorded by police.

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.