



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2015-03359

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Abuse of Children in a Madrassa, Mosque or Muslim School

Request and Answer:

Question

I kindly request the following information relating to the number of complaints relating to abuse of children in a Madrassa (could be spelt as Madrasa), Mosque, Muslim Supplementary school or Islamic Centre within in your area of jurisdiction.

How many complaints of children being physically abused in a Madrassa (could be spelt as Madrasa), Mosque, Muslim Supplementary school or Islamic Centre did you receive between January 2011 and September 2015 including the stated months?

How many complaints of children being verbally abused in a Madrassa (could be spelt as Madrasa), Mosque, Muslim Supplementary school or Islamic Centre did you receive between January 2011 and September 2015 including the stated months?

How many complaints of children being sexually abused in a Madrassa (could be spelt as Madrasa), Mosque, Muslim Supplementary school or Islamic Centre did you receive between January 2011 and September 2015 including the stated months?

How many of the incidents above have led to prosecution of the perpetrators?

Can you provide this information broken down for each month from Jan-December of years 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and January-September 2015 in a excel sheet format.

Answer

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Act I can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does hold information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

There are no specific markers on the PSNI crime recording system with which to identify 'Mosques', 'Islamic centres' or any of the Muslim schools mentioned in your request. Instead, a free text search for the words 'madrassa', 'madrasa', 'Muslim supplementary school', 'Mosque', and 'Islamic centre' was conducted on the calls for service made to the PSNI between January 2011 and September 2015. The PSNI Public Protection Unit also conducted a search to determine if they hold any information on any incidents relating to child abuse in any of the requested locations between January 2011 and September 2015.

These searches located no reported incidents of children being abused in a Madrassa / Madrasa, Mosque, Muslim Supplementary school or Islamic Centre and therefore it has been determined that the PSNI hold no information with which to answer your FOI request.

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.psni.police.uk

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