



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2015-03528

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Acid Attacks

Request and Answer:

Question 1

For the years 2012, 2013, 2014 and for the period 1st January 2015 to 9th November 2015, please could you tell me:

How many assaults have been recorded where a corrosive substance has been involved (commonly referred to as 'acid attacks') i.e. where the term "acid", "corrosive" and/or "acid attacks" have been included in the MO field of a crime report?

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.

From the 1st January 2012 to the 9th of November 2015 there have been 6 assault offences recorded where the MO identified a 'noxious substance / acid' being used as a weapon.

Note: This includes offences classified as 'violence against the person' and so will include offences where no actual injury may have occurred, e.g. threats to kill and attempted assaults. This information is based on data extracted from a live crime recording 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.

Question 2

How many victims were male and how many were female?

Answer

Of the 6 recorded incidents, 3 of the victims were male and 3 were female.

Question 3

If possible, what the corrosive substance was thought to have been? Please ignore this question if it takes the request above the cost or time limit set out by the Freedom of Information Act.

Answer

The 'noxious substance / acid' used in these incidents was identified as 'Bleach' in four of the six recorded incidents, 'White Spirits' in one of the incidents, and in the remaining incident the substance type was 'Unknown'.

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.