



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2015-03154

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Assaults At Football Matches

Request and Answer:

Question 1

I would like to know how many incidents of violence against a person, with the location listed as a football match, have been reported to your police service each separate financial year for ten years from April 2005-April 2015?

I would like a breakdown of how many offences were reported each year, which specific offences were recorded and the frequency of each offence in each year. If the location of a football match is not an option, then a similar category will suffice, such as football stadium, or sporting event.

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 two tables on page numbered 1 below which show details on the number of assaults relative to your request. There is no MO location of football match. The tables give violence against the person offences recorded in each financial year 2007/08 to 2014/15 where the MO location is identified as Sport club/pavilion or sports stadium and/or the call for service includes the text 'football match'. This search retrieved 161 offences – 102 with no MO location details and 59 with MO location of either Leisure - Sports club/pavilion or Leisure - sports stadium. These figures have been provided in two tables in the attached response, covering each financial year 2007/08 to 2014/15. Figures are only available from 2007/08 onwards (the start of crime recording on NICHE).

There is no overlap between the figures in the two tables provided.

N.B. This information is based on data extracted from a live 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.

The records identified in this response have not been individually read through and so the context in which the word 'football match' was used in the call for service is not known.

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.

Violence against the person offences recorded in each financial year 2007/08 to 2014/15 where the MO location is identified as Sport club/pavilion or sports stadium and/or the call for service includes the text 'football match'

Table 1: Violence against the person offences where the call for service includes the text 'football match' and the MO location = Leisure - Sports club/pavilion or Leisure - sports stadium

	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Assault with intent to cause serious harm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Assault with injury	4	4	1	7	4	6	1	11
Assault without injury	1	2	1	2	2	3	1	5
Assault without injury on a constable	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Threats to kill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harassment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	5	6	2	9	6	12	2	17

Table 2: Violence against the person offences where the call for service includes the text 'football match' but where there are no MO location details

	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Assault with intent to cause serious harm	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Assault with injury	7	10	6	15	12	8	7	4
Assault without injury	2	6	3	4	4	4	6	1
Assault without injury on a constable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Threats to kill	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Harassment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	9	16	9	19	16	14	13	6

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch

Please note: This information is based on data extracted from a live 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.

The records identified in this response have not been individually read through and so the context in which the word 'football match' was used in the call for service is not known.