



# FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2015-03265

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Attacks on Commercial Property Using Incendiary Devices

**Request and Answer:**

**Question 1**

Ref: Fire at B&M Bargains store - Rosemary Street, Belfast - October 2013

The request is for details, that is date and location, of suspected terrorist activity in respect of incendiary device type attacks or attempted attacks on commercial property within the Greater Belfast area from 1st September 2013 to the 31st December 2013.

**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.

A search conducted by the PSNI Statistics Branch has identified the following two incendiary device type incidents within the Greater Belfast area during the period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013 to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013, shown in the table below.

Date	Location of Incident	Premises
18-Oct-13	27 Rosemary St, Belfast	B&M Bargains
16-Dec-13	12-14 Cornmarket, Belfast	Golf Madness

**Question 2**

In particular, is it possible to clarify if any statistical correlation exists between paramilitary claims of responsibility for acts of violence or terrorism and confirmation, in broad terms, of the authenticity of the claims?

**Answer**

It is not possible to confirm statistically the authenticity of paramilitary claims of responsibility for such incidents and so the PSNI do not hold any information in relation to this request.

**Question 3**

Also, we are aware that Police were concerned of 'terrorist activity' prior to this fire in October 2013 and warned the general business community in and around Belfast City Centre of this verbally and by the use of 'warning posters of incendiary devices'. Perhaps this could be confirmed?

**Answer**

The PSNI did visit retailers and hoteliers regarding the heightened risk of incendiary devices in the run up to Christmas 2013. Please note that this is carried out every November as part of the PSNI Christmas Policing Plan.

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](mailto: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](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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