



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2015-00523

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Crimes Involving Machetes

Request and Answer:

Question 1

For the months of December 2014 and January 2015 how many crimes were logged by your force where a machete was recorded as being an element in the offence? [Note: I would hope that this could be achieved by a computer search on the MO of crimes for the words 'machete' or variants of the spelling to include 'machette' and 'machetes'.

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.

There were a total of 18 crimes recorded by the PSNI during the months of December 2014 and January 2015 where 'machete' or a variant of that word was recorded as being an element in the offence.

This response is based on recorded crimes where the attached MO for weapons used has had the option of 'machete' selected. A free text search was also completed on the call for service for the words 'machete' or 'machette'. There were 14 separate incidents identified, resulting in 18 crimes being recorded.

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.

These figures were extracted on 18th February 2015 and the figures provided cover any relevant crimes recorded up to this date.

Question 2

Please provide me with a table showing a breakdown of the crimes from Q.1 that is 'linked' to machete/s by its mention in the MO.

Answer

Please find attached below a table giving a breakdown of the 18 crimes referred to above.

Question 3

Taking the month of January 2015 please provide me with copies of the first 5 MOs that mention machetes. [Note: To avoid falling into an exemption I am content for names, ages, geography or any other personal detail to be redacted].

Answer

Please find attached below a table giving the requested breakdown of the first 5 incidents, which relate to machete, for the month of January 2015.

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.

Crimes recorded by PSNI during December 2014 and January 2015 where there was a mention of a 'machete' having some involvement.

Crime Type	Number where Machete mentioned
Violence Against the Person	6
Robbery	4
Other Victim-Based Crimes	4
Other Crimes Against Society	4
Total	18

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First 5 incidents in January 2015 where machete mentioned (based on extraction criteria described below)

Please note that incident reference number 2 resulted in two separate crimes being recorded

Reference Number	Description
1	Machetes used trying to gain access to premises
2	Altercation between two people - one possessing machete
2	Car window broken and tried to break in through another window
3	Householder assaulted by masked men, front door kicked in
4	Driver of vehicle had knife pulled on him
5	Female assaulted, locked out of house. Assailant had a machete

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.

Source: Statistics Branch, PSNI