



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2015-02684

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Incidents and Crimes Recorded as Anti-Muslim or Islamophobic

Request and Answer:

Question 1

Since 2010, how many incidents and crimes did your police force record as anti-Muslim and/or Islamophobic?

- a) Can I please have the information broken down as an annual total for the years, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and the data to date for 2015 (if the information is not available for a particular year, please provide information for the years where it is available)
- b) Of those in 1(a) how many were women and how many men?

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.

The table below shows those incidents and crimes that have been identified as having a faith/religion motivation which would appear to be anti-Muslim / anti-Islamic in nature for the years requested along with the gender of the victim where a crime was committed.

The figures provided below for the current financial year (i.e. from 1st April 2015) are provisional and will be subject to change.

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 ¹
Incidents	2	3	3	13	19	5
Crimes	1	0	2	9	7	2
Of which victim:						
Male	0	0	2	3	1	1
Female	0	0	0	3	4	1
Other²	1	0	0	3	2	0

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch

¹ 1st January to 30th June 2015

² Other Relates to crimes where the victim was a business/organisation etc.

Please note that the PSNI have adopted the definition for racially motivated incidents recommended by the Stephen Lawrence enquiry, namely 'Any incident, which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person.' Additionally the PSNI also use the principles of this definition to record all types of hate incidents. A faith/religious incident is defined as any incident which is perceived to be based upon prejudice towards or hatred of the faith of the victim or so perceived by the victim or any other person. A faith or religious group can be defined as a group of persons defined by reference to religious belief or lack of religious belief. This would include Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs and different sects within a religion. It also includes people who hold no religious belief at all.

Figures within the current year to date are provisional and will be subject to change until finalised figures for the full financial year are published in May 2016. While crimes included within the police recorded crime statistics for Northern Ireland are individually checked for compliance with the Home Office Counting Rules, the identification of a hate motivation is derived from a motivation 'tick box' on the system used by PSNI to record crime. The motivation is identified and completed by a police officer or member of police staff for each such reported incident or crime. The correct application of a hate motivation for all such incidents/crimes is not quality assured by the PSNI's Statistics Branch, but audits and data quality checks are routinely conducted in an attempt to ensure that any under or over-recording is corrected.

An explanation of what constitutes an incident and a crime is provided in Section 2.1 of the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics](#). A crime will be recorded as having a hate motivation where it meets the relevant definition provided above. Not all hate motivated incidents will result in the recording of a crime as what has occurred in the incident may not be of the level of severity that would result in a notifiable offence being recorded. Where crimes with a hate motivation are recorded they are classified according to the Home Office Counting Rules and form a subset of the overall police recorded crime statistics. Further details of the background and recording practice in relation to police recorded crime statistics are available in the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics](#), with those relating to hate motivated incidents and crimes available in Section 6. These recording practices, methods of counting detections and crime types apply equally to crimes with a hate motivation.

Question 2

Since 2010, in how many cases involving anti-Muslim/Islamaphobia were criminal charges pressed? Can I please have the information as an annual total for the years, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and the data to date for 2015?

Answer

Between 2010 and 2015 there have been no criminal charges pressed as a result of cases involving a faith/religion motivation which have been identified as being anti-Muslim / anti-Islamic in nature. Please note, that figures within the current financial year (i.e. from 1st April 2015) are provisional and will be subject to change. 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 3

Since 2010, in how many cases involving Islamaphobia resulted in convictions involving? Can I please have the information as an annual total for the years, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and the data to date for 2015?

Answer

Two convictions occurred in the 2012 which came as a result of cases which have been identified as having a faith/religion motivation and which appear to be anti-Muslim / anti-Islamic in nature. No other such convictions occurred during the years 2010 to 2015.

Please note, that figures within the current financial year (i.e. from 1st April 2015) are provisional and will be subject to change. 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.

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.psnj.police.uk

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