



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2015-00036

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Orange Hall Attacks - 2014

Request and Answer:

Question 1

The location, number and nature of attacks on Orange halls in Northern Ireland during the calendar year of 2014.

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 Tables below which shows details of attacks on Orange Halls in 2014, also location and breakdown of offence. Attacks on Orange Halls are recorded where a crime has a sectarian motivation, and where the premises is the intended target of the attack. These figures are a subset of sectarian motivated crimes

Data accuracy

Figures within the current year to date (1 April 2014 onwards) are provisional and will be subject to change until finalised figures for the full financial year are published in May 2015. While crimes included within the police recorded crime statistics for Northern Ireland are individually checked for compliance with the Home Office Counting Rules by the PSNI's Statistics Branch, 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.

Definition of sectarian motivation

Any occurrence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, as being motivated by prejudice or hate (ACPO definition), will be recorded as having a hate motivation. A sectarian crime is therefore defined as any crime which is perceived to be sectarian by the victim or any other person. The term 'sectarian', whilst not clearly defined, is a term almost exclusively used in Northern Ireland to describe incidents of bigoted dislike or hatred of members of a different religious or political group. It is broadly accepted that within the Northern Ireland context an individual or group will be

perceived to be Catholic or Protestant, Nationalist or Unionist, or Loyalist or Republican.

Policing Area
Antrim
Armagh
Banbridge
North Belfast
Coleraine
Cookstown
Craigavon
Fermanagh
Foyle
Limavady
Lisburn
Magherafelt
Moyle
Total – 18 attacks

Offence Type	Number of Offences
Criminal Damage	14
Theft (including burglary)	4
Total	18

Question 2

The number of arrests made by police in relation to such incidents.

Answer

There were 3 arrests made by police.

Question 3

The number of people charged in relation to such incidents, specifying which incidents.

Answer

There were 2 people charged in relation to these incidents. One was charged in relation to an incident in North Belfast and the other person charged was in relation to an incident in County Antrim.

Question 4

The number of people convicted in relation to such incidents, specifying which incidents.

Answer

Two persons were convicted, one for an incident in North Belfast and the other one for an incident in County Antrim.

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.