



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2015-03367

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Statistics on Cyber Crime

Request and Answer:

Question

I'm emailing about Online Safety Week. Can you please email me the statistics of Cyber Crime relating to Northern Ireland, and a statement about Cyber Crime in Northern Ireland?

Clarification Sought

I believe you are referring to the 'Get Safe Online Week' survey carried out which provides statistics regarding victims of cybercrime. This was a specially commissioned survey and the PSNI would have had no input.

You have requested statistics of cyber crime relating to Northern Ireland however we would need a definition of the type of cyber crimes reports being requested and a timeframe.

For your information Action Fraud with effect from 01 April are a reporting portal for internet and fraud crime and they may be better placed to provide a response in regard to the information you are seeking.

Could you please advise how you wish to proceed.

Clarification Received

I was hoping to receive the statistics of fraud victims (due to cyber crime), Identity theft, the number of victims of online harassment living in Northern Ireland during 2015 so far.

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.

Please find attached at the end of this correspondence on pages 1 – 2 the information requested for the period 1st January 2015 to 12th November 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.

Cyber Enabled Crime 1st January 2015 to 12th November 2015

The figures provided below are based on those offences which have had the cyber-enabled marker completed. The completion of this marker should be based on the definition provided below.

Definition of Cybercrime:

An offence should be flagged as cyber-enabled where the reporting officer believes that on the balance of probability, the offence was committed, in full or in part, through a computer, computer network or other computer-enabled device.

Inclusion criteria

Offences should be flagged where **online or internet-based activities** have been involved, such as:

- sending or receiving emails;
- use of social media or networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Flickr etc, this also includes online dating sites (for example, Match.com, e-harmony etc) and other online chatrooms;
- use of internet forums, blogs or websites;
- online auction or retail sites (e.g. Ebay, Gumtree);
- communication via online video game networks (e.g. through X-box Live, Playstation Network); or
- communications platforms such as Skype, Facetime, WhatsApp or Viber.

The terms 'computer, computer network and other computer-enabled devices' include offences committed using:

- desktop computers or laptops, in the home or in the workplace;
- smartphones, tablets and other telecommunications devices linked to computer networks; or
- any other identifiable computer system or network that produces, processes and transmits data. This may also include internal intranets (e.g. those used for staff payment transfers).

Some offences may use a combination of methods i.e. methods involving computers or the internet, as well as more established 'offline' methods. These offences should also be flagged as a 'cyber-enabled'.

Exclusion criteria

Offences should **not** be flagged where:

The crime only involved a mobile phone network to make phone calls or send/receive text messages, rather than an internet network. Some use of a computer network or internet technology is required. Please note, messages sent via platforms that serve the same purpose as text messages should also be excluded, this includes BlackBerry Messenger (BBM) and iMessage.

- The computer was used to make or design fraudulent items such as fake gift or shopping vouchers.
- The crime has already been recorded by Action Fraud or the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau.
- The offence involved theft of computers or other internet-enabled devices.

Please note that this information is based on data extracted from a live 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. 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 cyber-enabled crime 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.

Offence Category ¹	Recorded offences (marked cyber enabled)
	1st Jan – 12th Nov 2015
Violence against the person	341
<i>Of which:</i>	
<i>Threats to kill</i>	40
<i>Harassment</i>	289
<i>All other violence against the person offences</i>	12
Sexual offences	95
<i>Of which:</i>	
<i>Sexual activity offences</i>	86
<i>All other sexual offences</i>	9
Theft offences	57
<i>Of which:</i>	
<i>Blackmail</i>	50
<i>All Other theft</i>	7
Criminal damage	2
Other crimes against society	141
<i>Of which:</i>	
<i>Obscene publications, etc. and protected sexual material</i>	80
<i>Other offences against the State and public order</i>	38
<i>All other crimes against society</i>	23
All offences (with Cyber motivation)	639

Other Fraud: These offences are not presented in the table above as, from 1st April 2015, Action Fraud are the reporting portal for crimes of this type in Northern Ireland. However there were 51 offences of other fraud marked as cyber enabled between 1st January 2015 and 31st March 2015.

¹ Individual crime types may not add to All offences (with Cyber motivation) as there will be some crimes yet to complete the validation process and be allocated to a crime classification.

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch