



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2015-00332

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Incidents In Schools

Request and Answer:

Question 1

I would like to know the how many illegal weapons have been seized from schools in Northern Ireland in each of the past five years.

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 find the information on illegal weapons seized from schools from 2010 - 2014 in the table below:

	Incidents
2010	10
2011	15
2012	11
2013	9
2014	13

Question 2

I would also like to know how many instances of physical attacks were recorded in schools in Northern Ireland each of the past five years.

Answer

Please find the number of physical attacks at schools for 2010 – 2014 in the table below:

	Offences
2010	371
2011	312
2012	270
2013	295
2014	317

Question 3

Finally I would like to know how many times police have been called out to schools in Northern Ireland in each of the past five years.

Answer

Please find in the table below the number of times police were called out to schools from 2010 – 2014:

	Incidents
2010	3,555
2011	3,201
2012	2,942
2013	2,423
2014	2,068

Please note that the information was extracted from the Command and control system where the address indicated a school location based on a keyword search of 'school'. Data was also extracted from NICHE where the occurrence or dispatch address indicated the location was a school based on a keyword search of school or college. Records were also included where the location mo was education and the subtype was school or college. The records were combined to provide a list of school locations. Please note that this list of school locations does not indicate that an incident happened on school premises it includes incidents which happened within the vicinity of the location.

For Q1 the list of school locations was linked to the property information from NICHE where the property description was firearms or weapons and the classification was seized.

For Q2 the list of school locations was linked to the recorded crime dataset and where the offence classification was violence against the person the following classifications were included: Assault without injury on a constable, Assault without injury, Attempted Murder, Assault with intent to cause serious harm and Assault with injury.

For Q3 the list of school locations was linked to officer attendance data from NICHE where the officer was linked as 'attending' or 'dispatched' officer.

Please note that this information provided in Q3 is different from information that was previously released in requests F-2014-03995 and F2014-04535 and should not be used in comparison as a different set of criteria were used to extract the data.

Please further 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

Please note that figures within the current financial year (i.e. from 1st April 2014) are provisional and will be subject to change.

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.