



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2015-02780

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Parades In Northern Ireland

Request and Answer:

All of the below for every year records have been held. Including for the RUC if possible.

Clarification Received: Yes by incidents I mean parades that caused disorder.

Question 1

Number of parades in Northern Ireland.

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.

Between 1986 and 2009 there were 66,023 parades in Northern Ireland.

Question 2

Number of parades by affiliation.

Answer

The 66,023 parades were categorised as:

54,119 – Loyalist

4,791 – Nationalist

7,113 – Other

'Loyalist' parades include those organised by the Orange Order, the Royal Black Preceptory and the Apprentice Boys as well as band parades/contests or protest marches involving the Loyalist community.

'Nationalist' parades include parades organised by the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Irish National Foresters as well as band parades/contests or protest marches involving the Nationalist community.

'Other' parades include Boys Brigade, Scouts, charity fund-raising, town festivals etc. Other parades were only recorded from 1995.

Question 3

Number of incidents by affiliation.

Answer

The PSNI Security database has a marker which indicates if disorder occurred at a parade. As agreed in the clarification this meets the requirements for the 'number of incidents'. The number of parades at which there was disorder is only recorded from 1987 and is only recorded by attribution from 1990.

Between 1987 and 1989 there were 44 parades in which disorder occurred.

Between 1990 and 2009 there were 260 parades in which disorder occurred, categorised as follows:

225 - Loyalist
30 - Nationalist
5 - Other

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.