



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2015-00184

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Public Disorder Arrests

Request and Answer:

Question 1

Could we take a look at public disorder arrests in 2014 in the Belfast City district? Granted that those arrested may not have reported their religious-cultural background, is there any additional information in these cases that would enable us to determine such a comparison?

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.

There were 1089 arrests (arrested and processed through custody) for public order offences under the Public Order Act in the Belfast City Policing District for the period 01 January to 31 December 2014. The offences used to define this search were:

- Riotous Behaviour
- Possessing Offensive Weapon In Public Place
- Doing A Provocative Act
- Disorderly Behaviour
- Behaviour Likely To Cause A Breach Of The Peace
- Failing To Comply With Direction/Condition Of Public Order

N.B. The data relates to 930 individuals. i.e. one or more individuals have been arrested and processed through custody on more than one occasion.

N.B. 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.

N.B. The figures within the current financial year (from 1st April 2014) are provisional and will be subject to change.

I can further confirm that of the 930 individuals arrested the religion data completed at the time was as below.

241 – Protestant
393 – Roman Catholic
22 – Other
150 – None
90 – Refused
15 – Other Christian
11 – Null
6 – Muslim
1 – Buddhist
1 - Sikh

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.