

Keeping People Safe



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2016-00263

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Alleged Crimes in Belfast Streets

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

How many alleged crimes have been reported from 1/4/14 to 1/4/15 and from 1/4/15 to 1/1/16 in the following Streets in Belfast?

Agincourt St  
Agincourt Ave  
Cadogan St  
Collingwood St  
Penrose St  
Cairo St  
Damascus St  
Jerusalem St  
Palestine St  
Carmel St  
Rugby Ave

#### Question 2

How many have been confirmed as crime by the PSNI?

#### Question 3

How many reports to the PSNI were made by City Council officers?

#### Question 4

How many reports to the PSNI were made by the Queens University?

#### Question 5

How many reports to the PSNI were made by Ulster University?

#### Question 6

How many reports from others were there and how often in each Street? Example Carmel St had the same person make 4 complaints etc.

#### Question 7

What was the nature of the complaints?

### Question 8

What were the outcomes of these complaints?

### Question 9

How many prosecutions were there brought?

### Question 10

How many prosecutions were successful and what for?

### Answer

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit) to provide you the applicant with a notice which states that fact.

It is estimated that the cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the "appropriate costs limit" under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450.

The record keeper has informed us that, with regard to questions 3 – 6, it would not be possible to identify who made the report to the PSNI without reading through each incident. An initial search shows that in the last 12 months there were approximately 350 alleged crimes reported to the PSNI. It has been estimated that to manually examine each of these incidents would take approximately 58 hours which would result in your FOI request exceeding the legislative limit of 18 hours. The 58 hours would be further increased by the time required to respond to the other questions in your request.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice, and the request has therefore been closed.

You may wish to submit a refined request in order that the cost of complying with your request may be facilitated within the 'appropriate limit'. In compliance with Section 16 of the Act, I have considered how your request may be refined to bring it under the appropriate limit. If questions 3 – 6 were to be withdrawn from the FOI, it may result in the remainder of the FOI request coming in under the legislative cost limit.

**Please Note:** In order to be of assistance, the PSNI Statistics Branch wishes to make you aware that street level crime data is publically available on the crime mapping website ([www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)) for the time period you have requested. The mapping facilities of this website will enable you to identify the specific streets that you are interested in and to obtain crime figures for specific offence types. This crime mapping site enables a user to enter a postcode and it will then take them to a map for that area showing the number of crimes. Selecting 'Explore the crime map' allows users to manipulate the map and also allows them to draw their own boundary area and see the reported crimes within that boundary. After the specific boundary has been drawn on the map, click on the link showing 'View detailed statistics', which will show figures for the last 12 months based on the specific area drawn. It is also possible for users to download the data and use this to map the information themselves.

Submission of a refined request would be treated as a new request, and considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, including consideration of relevant Part II exemptions.

If you have any queries regarding your request or this 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](mailto: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](http://www.psni.police.uk)

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.