



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2017-03157

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Acid Attacks

Request and 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.

Request

All instances where acid attacks were reported over the past five years, including arrests made convictions, and sentencing.

If possible, please set out your results using this table below as a formatting guide.

Year of attack	Number of attacks	Arrests made	Convictions
2012			
2013			
2014			
2015			
2016			
2017 (to date)			

Answer

Please find below details relating to your request for the time frame requested. Records were identified based on violence against the person offences recorded by police (report date between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2017) where the MO – weapons - subtype (in occurrence MO) indicates 'Noxious substance/acid'. If similar words are entered elsewhere within the crime record but not within the MO – weapons - subtype then it will not have been identified through the search criteria. While the inclusion of 'Noxious substance/acid' will be connected to the incident reported, the involvement may not be directly connected to the violence against the person offences recorded. Only where a person was arrested and processed through to custody will an arrest be counted as part of the answer but note that it is possible for a suspect to be dealt with by other means, and this will not be included in the answer.

Please note: This information is based on data extracted from a live crime recording 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. Crime data from 1 April 2017 is provisional and subject to change.

Year	Number of crimes of violence against the person recorded	Number of arrests	Convicted
2012	3	1	0
2013	2	1	0
2014	1	0	0
2015	0	0	0
2016	1	0	0
2017	0	0	0

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch

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.