



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2017-03365

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Domestic Homicides

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 1

How many domestic homicides have occurred in your force area where the victim was a male?

Answer

Definition of domestic abuse - The PSNI has adopted the definition of domestic abuse as outlined in the 2016 Northern Ireland Government Strategy 'Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse in Northern Ireland' as:

'threatening, controlling, coercive behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, virtual, physical, verbal, sexual, financial or emotional) inflicted on anyone (irrespective of age, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or any form of disability) by a current or former intimate partner or family member'.

The following will assist in the application of this definition:

- (a) **'Incident'** means an incident anywhere and not confined to the home of one of the partners/family members;
- (b) **'Family members'** include mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister, grandparents, whether directly or indirectly related, in-laws or stepfamily.
- (c) **'Intimate partners'** means there must have been a relationship with a degree of continuity and stability. The relationship must also have had (or reasonably supposed to have had) a sexual aspect, such as in the relationship between husband and wife or between others generally recognised as a couple including same sex couples.

This information is published in the latest annual trends bulletin, period ending 2016/17 (<https://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/domestic-abuse-statistics/>) – see the summary tables excel spreadsheet table 3.9. It is also, by default, available from the response to Q2. (As there was no time period provided for Q1, this has been taken as being the same as the years requested in Q2)

Request 2

Of these domestic homicides, what was the gender breakdown of the victim and perpetrator?

Answer

Please find in the table below the gender breakdown of the victim and perpetrator and year. Provision of the domestic abuse definition is essential to the understanding of the figures provided – in the majority of cases the relationship between victim and perpetrator is that of parent and child.

	2011 – 2012	2012 – 2013	2013 – 2014	2014 - 2015	2015 – 2016	2016 – 2017
Male victim and female perpetrator	1	0	1	1	0	0
Male victim and male perpetrator	2	3	1	1	0	1

Please note that provision of the domestic abuse definition is essential to the understanding of the figures provided.

Request 3

Of these domestic homicides, in how many cases has the force informed the relevant Community Safety Partnership (CSP) of an incident? i.e. made a Domestic Homicide Review notification.

Answer

The Domestic Homicide Review has not yet been instigated in Northern Ireland and therefore there have been no referrals made. The term 'Community Safety Partnership' within Northern Ireland is concerned with day-to-day policing and community issues and has no statutory function with regard to domestic homicide policy or investigations.

Request 4

Please provide the names of the CSPs which have received notifications.

Answer

Please refer to the answer to request 3.

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.