



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2016-01640

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Hate Crimes

Request and Answer:

Question

Please could you provide figures for the total number of hate crimes recorded, for each of the following categories of crimes:

- (a) Racist and Religious Hate Crime
- (b) Racist Hate Crime
- (c) Faith Hate Crime
- (d) Anti-Semitic Hate Crime
- (e) Islamophobic Hate Crime

Please provide this data for each of the following periods:

1. March 16th, 2016 - June 23rd, 2016 (inclusive)
2. June 24th, 2016 - October 1st, 2016 (inclusive)
3. March 16th, 2015 - June 23rd, 2015 (inclusive)
4. March 16th, 2014 - June 23rd, 2014 (inclusive)

I am therefore looking for a total of 20 figures -- i.e. the total figure for each of the 5 types of crime listed, for each of the 4 time periods.

Answer

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) does hold information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Please find table below showing the number of hate crimes recorded for the time periods requested broken down by 'Racist Motivated' and 'Faith/Religious Motivated'. The Category 'Racist and Religious Hate Crime' does not exist in Northern Ireland.

Type of hate crime motivation ¹	16 March – 23 June 2014	16 March – 23 June 2015	16 March – 23 June 2016	24 June - 1 October 2016
Racist motivated	290	256	168	210
Faith/Religious motivated	3	7	5	11
<i>of which: anti-semitic</i> ²	0	1	1	4
<i>of which: islamophobic</i> ²	1	3	0	6

¹Hate motivation definitions, along with what constitutes an incident and a crime are available at: https://www.psni.police.uk/globalassets/inside-the-psni/our-statistics/hate-motivation-statistics/hate_motivation_definitions.pdf

²Anti-semitic and islamophobic hate crimes are a subset of faith/religious hate crimes and are identified by reading through each faith/religious motivated crime to establish whether there was an anti-semitic or islamophobic element.

Please note: 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. Data for the current financial year (1 April 2016 onwards) is provisional and will be subject to change until finalised figures for the full financial year are published in May 2017.

While crimes included within the police recorded crime statistics for Northern Ireland are individually checked for compliance with the Home Office Counting Rules by the PSNI's Statistics Branch, the identification of a hate motivation is derived from a motivation 'tick box' on the system used by PSNI to record crime. The motivation is identified and completed by a police officer or member of police staff for each such reported incident or crime. The correct application of a hate motivation for all such incidents/crimes is not quality assured by the PSNI's Statistics Branch, but audits and data quality checks are routinely conducted in an attempt to ensure that any under or over-recording is corrected. Figures provided for the current financial year may not yet have been subject to any data quality checks.

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.