



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2017-01162

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Assaults involving Acid and/or Corrosive Substances

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

Please could you tell me the number of recorded assaults against people involving acid and/or corrosive substances in each of the following years:

2012-13  
2013-14  
2014-15  
2015-16  
2016-17

Please give only the number of incidents in which acid or the substance was used against a person, rather than against property. If it is not possible to separate out injuries from property damage, please state this in your reply.

#### 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.

The PSNI Central Statistics branch have identified that from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017, there were four crimes recorded as assault where the 'occurrence MO' information was recorded as 'noxious substance/acid'. Please note that 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 offence.

**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.

#### Question 2

If possible, please provide a list of each of the above incidents in your answer to question 1 detailing: Date, Location, Injury Sustained By Victim.

#### Answer

Please find a table included below containing the requested details in relation to these four crimes which were recorded as assault and where the 'occurrence MO' information was recorded as 'noxious substance/acid'.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Policing District</b>	<b>Description of Injury</b>
February 2013	Antrim & Newtownabbey	None
August 2013	Ards & North Down	None
May 2014	Causeway, Coast & Glens	None
July 2016	Belfast City	Stinging & Burning Eyes

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](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.psnipolice.uk](http://www.psnipolice.uk)

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