



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2017-01292

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Paramilitary-Style Punishment Attacks (Shootings and Assaults)

Request and Answer:

Question 1

To whom it may concern,
 I would like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am looking for statistics on paramilitary-style punishment attacks (shootings and assaults).
 I would like to request the following information for the last four calendar years.

How many paramilitary style punishment attacks have been recorded by the PSNI?

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.

Between 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2016 there were 317 casualties of paramilitary style attacks of which 214 were casualties of assaults and 103 were casualties of shootings. Table 1 displays the number of casualties as a result of paramilitary style assaults and shootings by calendar year.

Table 1

Year	Casualties as a result of Paramilitary Style Assaults	Casualties as a result of Paramilitary Style Shootings	Total
2013	38	26	64
2014	49	31	80
2015	62	26	88
2016	65	20	85
Total	214	103	317

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch, Lisnasharragh

Question 2

Ages and gender of the victims?

Answer

Table 2 below shows a breakdown by age group for the 317 casualties of paramilitary style attacks by calendar year.

Table 2

Age Group	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Under 16	2	1	0	1	4
16 - 25	28	37	34	35	134
26 - 35	22	27	27	27	103
36 - 45	6	10	21	15	52
46 - 55	5	4	5	4	18
56 and over	1	1	1	3	6
Total	64	80	88	85	317

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch, Lisnasharragh

Table 3 shows a breakdown by gender for the 317 casualties of paramilitary style attacks by calendar year.

Table 3

Gender	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Male	63	79	84	82	308
Female	1	1	4	3	9
Total	64	80	88	85	317

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch, Lisnasharragh

Question 3

Type of weapon used?

Answer

Table 4 lists the weapons that have been used on the 214 casualties of paramilitary style assaults by calendar year. The type of weapon used is not validated and the information has simply been downloaded from the PSNI Security database. Each row represents one casualty. Type of weapon is not recorded for paramilitary-style shootings.

Table 4

Casualty Reference Number	Weapon
2013	
Casualty 1	Baseball Bats and Iron Bar
Casualty 2	Mallets
Casualty 3	Baseball Bats
Casualty 4	Baseball Bats
Casualty 5	Iron Bars
Casualty 6	None/Unknown
Casualty 7	Hammers
Casualty 8	Bats
Casualty 9	Hammer
Casualty 10	Iron Bars and Baseball Bats
Casualty 11	Crowbars
Casualty 12	Iron Bars
Casualty 13	A Crowbar and A Stick
Casualty 14	None/Unknown
Casualty 15	None/Unknown
Casualty 16	None/Unknown
Casualty 17	Hammers
Casualty 18	None/Unknown
Casualty 19	Baseball Bats

Casualty 20	None/Unknown
Casualty 21	Iron Bars
Casualty 22	None/Unknown
Casualty 23	Baseball Bat, Knuckle Duster and Taser
Casualty 24	Knife
Casualty 25	None/Unknown
Casualty 26	Hammer
Casualty 27	None/Unknown
Casualty 28	Metal Bars
Casualty 29	Hammers
Casualty 30	Golf Club
Casualty 31	Pistol Whipped
Casualty 32	Sledge Hammer and Bats
Casualty 33	Sledge Hammer and Bats
Casualty 34	Sledge Hammer and Bats
Casualty 35	Baseball Bats
Casualty 36	None/Unknown
Casualty 37	None/Unknown
Casualty 38	None/Unknown
2014	
Casualty 39	Wooden and Metal Sticks and Poles
Casualty 40	A Pick Axe Handle
Casualty 41	None/Unknown
Casualty 42	None/Unknown
Casualty 43	Pick Axe Handles
Casualty 44	Baseball Bats
Casualty 45	Sledge Hammers and Baseball Bats
Casualty 46	A Metal Pole
Casualty 47	Bricks
Casualty 48	A Baton and Bricks
Casualty 49	Baseball Bats
Casualty 50	None/Unknown
Casualty 51	None/Unknown
Casualty 52	None/Unknown
Casualty 53	Hammers
Casualty 54	A Sledge Hammer and A Crow Bar
Casualty 55	Baseball Bats and Hammers
Casualty 56	Sticks
Casualty 57	Sticks and Bats
Casualty 58	None/Unknown
Casualty 59	Spiked Knuckle Duster
Casualty 60	A Baseball Bat
Casualty 61	Iron Bars and Bats
Casualty 62	Baseball Bats
Casualty 63	None/Unknown
Casualty 64	None/Unknown
Casualty 65	A Hammer and A Possible Hatchet
Casualty 66	A Hammer and A Possible Hatchet
Casualty 67	Hammers
Casualty 68	Baseball Bats
Casualty 69	Sledge Hammers and Baseball Bats
Casualty 70	A Hammer and Iron Bars

Casualty 71	A Mallet and A Hammer
Casualty 72	Nail Studded Bats
Casualty 73	None/Unknown
Casualty 74	Baseball Bats
Casualty 75	Hammers and Crowbars
Casualty 76	Iron Bars
Casualty 77	A Hammer
Casualty 78	A Hammer
Casualty 79	Iron Bars
Casualty 80	None/Unknown
Casualty 81	Baseball Bat
Casualty 82	Baseball Bats
Casualty 83	None/Unknown
Casualty 84	Hammer
Casualty 85	Iron Bars
Casualty 86	Baseball Bats
Casualty 87	None/Unknown
2015	
Casualty 88	Crow Bar
Casualty 89	Bats and Sticks
Casualty 90	Baseball Bats
Casualty 91	Iron Bars and Batons
Casualty 92	Baseball Bats
Casualty 93	Bats
Casualty 94	None/Unknown
Casualty 95	Baseball Bats and Iron Bars
Casualty 96	None/Unknown
Casualty 97	Iron Bars
Casualty 98	Sledge and Block Hammers
Casualty 99	Baseball Bats
Casualty 100	Baseball Bats/Iron Bars
Casualty 101	Baseball Bats/Iron Bars
Casualty 102	None/Unknown
Casualty 103	Baseball Bats
Casualty 104	Baseball Bats
Casualty 105	Iron Bars
Casualty 106	Baseball Bats and A Hatchet
Casualty 107	Baseball Bats and Screwdrivers
Casualty 108	Baseball Bats and A Hatchet
Casualty 109	Baseball Bats
Casualty 110	Baseball Bats
Casualty 111	None/Unknown
Casualty 112	Poles
Casualty 113	Poles
Casualty 114	None/Unknown
Casualty 115	Bricks and Axe
Casualty 116	Metal Pole
Casualty 117	Wooden Batons
Casualty 118	Iron Bar
Casualty 119	Hammer, Nails
Casualty 120	Batons
Casualty 121	Baseball Bats, Wooden Batons

Casualty 122	Flick Baton
Casualty 123	Plank Of Wood
Casualty 124	None/Unknown
Casualty 125	Sledge Hammers
Casualty 126	Baseball Bats
Casualty 127	Baseball Bats
Casualty 128	Shotgun
Casualty 129	None/Unknown
Casualty 130	None/Unknown
Casualty 131	Sticks
Casualty 132	Handgun
Casualty 133	Baseball Bat
Casualty 134	Baseball Bats & Sledge Hammer
Casualty 135	Bats & Blade Studded Wood
Casualty 136	None/Unknown
Casualty 137	Hammers
Casualty 138	Hatchet
Casualty 139	Handgun, Iron Bar
Casualty 140	Sledge Hammer & Knife
Casualty 141	A Hammer
Casualty 142	Baseball Bats & Golf Clubs
Casualty 143	Handguns & Hammer
Casualty 144	Baseball Bat
Casualty 145	Gun
Casualty 146	Golf Club
Casualty 147	None/Unknown
Casualty 148	Baseball Bats & Sledge Hammer
Casualty 149	Axes And Hammers
2016	
Casualty 150	Baseball Bats
Casualty 151	None/Unknown
Casualty 152	None/Unknown
Casualty 153	None/Unknown
Casualty 154	Iron Bar
Casualty 155	None/Unknown
Casualty 156	Baseball Bat
Casualty 157	Baseball Bats & Hammer
Casualty 158	Hammer
Casualty 159	Hammer
Casualty 160	Sledgehammer and Iron Bars
Casualty 161	Iron Bars
Casualty 162	Baseball Bat
Casualty 163	Hammers
Casualty 164	Hammers & Axe
Casualty 165	Pickaxe Handles & Crowbars
Casualty 166	None/Unknown
Casualty 167	Metal Bar
Casualty 168	Taser
Casualty 169	None/Unknown
Casualty 170	Iron Bars
Casualty 171	Nail Studded Bats
Casualty 172	Baseball Bat

Casualty 173	Wheel Brace & Hurley Stick
Casualty 174	Handgun
Casualty 175	Hammers
Casualty 176	None/Unknown
Casualty 177	None/Unknown
Casualty 178	Iron Bar & Hurley Sticks
Casualty 179	Metal Bar & Baseball Bat
Casualty 180	Crowbars
Casualty 181	Hammers & Baseball Bats
Casualty 182	Bat
Casualty 183	Chairs
Casualty 184	Air Weapon
Casualty 185	Bats
Casualty 186	Knuckle Duster
Casualty 187	Crowbar
Casualty 188	Bat
Casualty 189	None/Unknown
Casualty 190	Baseball Bats
Casualty 191	None/Unknown
Casualty 192	Baseball Bats
Casualty 193	Metal Poles
Casualty 194	Crow Bar
Casualty 195	Iron Bar, Axe, Hammer
Casualty 196	None/Unknown
Casualty 197	Iron Bars and Baseball Bats
Casualty 198	None/Unknown
Casualty 199	Nail Studded Baseball Bats
Casualty 200	Nail Studded Baseball Bats
Casualty 201	Hammers / Knuckle Dusters
Casualty 202	Iron Bars
Casualty 203	Iron Bars
Casualty 204	None/Unknown
Casualty 205	None/Unknown
Casualty 206	Iron Bars & Taser
Casualty 207	Flick Baton
Casualty 208	Flick Baton
Casualty 209	Iron Bars
Casualty 210	Poles & Iron Bars
Casualty 211	None/Unknown
Casualty 212	Hammer
Casualty 213	Hammer
Casualty 214	Baseball Bat

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch, Lisnasharragh

Question 4

Location of the attacks? (For the Belfast policing district, could the figures be broken down, if possible, to north, south, east and west of the city please)

Answer

As part of the Review of Public Administration which came into effect on 1 April 2015, PSNI moved from eight to eleven policing districts. Table 5, included below, displays the number of casualties of paramilitary style attacks for the period 1st January 2013 to 31st March 2015 based on the pre-April 2015 policing districts.

Table 6 below displays the number of casualties of paramilitary style attacks for the period 1st April 2015 to 31 December 2016 based on the current 11 policing districts. The charts on the next page show the change in districts graphically. The new 11 policing districts correspond to the 11 local government districts.

Table 5 – 1st Jan 2013 to 31st Mar 2015

Policing District	2013	2014	2015⁽¹⁾
A District	17	27	8
<i>North Belfast</i>	5	11	4
<i>West Belfast</i>	12	16	4
B District	7	9	2
<i>East Belfast</i>	5	6	2
<i>South</i>	2	3	0
C District	8	9	5
D District	13	11	8
E District	2	3	0
F District	0	0	0
G District	7	13	3
H District	10	8	6
Total	64	80	32

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch, Lisnasharragh

⁽¹⁾ 2015 figures cover the period 1 January 2015 to 31 March 2015.

Table 6 – 1st Apr 2015 to 31st Dec 2016

Policing District	2015⁽¹⁾	2016
Belfast City	24	42
<i>Tennent Street Local Policing</i>	9	11
<i>Woodbourne Street Local Policing</i>	7	15
<i>Strandtown Local Policing Area ⁽²⁾</i>	4	7
<i>Lisburn Road Local Policing Area</i>	4	9
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	0	2
Ards & North Down	4	8
Newry, Mourne & Down	0	1
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	2	1
Mid Ulster	2	2
Derry City & Strabane	4	6
Fermanagh & Omagh	0	0
Causeway Coast & Glens	0	6
Mid & East Antrim	11	14
Antrim & Newtownabbey	9	3
Total	56	85

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch, Lisnasharragh

⁽¹⁾ 2015 figures cover the period 1 April 2015 to 31 December 2015.

⁽²⁾ *Tennent Street LPC* covers *North Belfast*, *Woodbourne LPC* covers *West Belfast*, *Strandtown LPC* covers *East Belfast* and *Lisburn Road LPC* covers *South Belfast* however the LPCs, which came into effect from 1 April 2015, do not correspond to the same geographical areas as the Pre April 2015 policing areas of *North*, *West*, *East* and *South Belfast*.

PSNI Policing Districts from 1st April 2007 – 31st March 2015



PSNI Policing Districts from 1st April 2015



Question 5

Could you also tell me how many of these attacks have been cleared by way of charge or summons?

Answer

There have been 10 'paramilitary style attack' offences recorded from 1st January 2013 to the 31st December 2016 that have since been detected by means of charge/summons:

- 2013 – 3
- 2014 – 2
- 2015 – 3
- 2016 – 2

Note: Detected figures are correct as at 31 March 2017. Please note that these figures are subject to change, should an outcome be recorded in the future for an offence which was recorded within this time period.

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.