



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2017-01296

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Retail Crime Against Independent Retailers

Request and Answer:

Question 1

The NFRN is the Federation of Independent Retailers, representing thousands of convenience stores and newsagents across the United Kingdom. One of the biggest threats to our members' businesses is retail crime. As part of our research into the scale of retail crime against independent retailers, we would like to request the following information:

For your Force area, between January 1st 2017 until April 30th 2017:

The number of physical assaults, GBH and ABH occurring at newsagents and convenience stores;

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.

There were four assaults with injury offences recorded from the 1st January 2017 – 30th April 2017 where the mo location subtype was newsagent or convenience store.

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.

Please note that figures within the current financial year (i.e. from 1st April 2017) are provisional and will be subject to change.

Data accuracy: 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.

Question 2

The number of recorded verbal and racial abuse occurring at newsagents and convenience stores;

Answer

There were no racist incidents or crimes recorded from the 1st January 2017 – 30th April 2017 where the mo location subtype was newsagent or convenience store.

Note: Further details on hate crimes definitions (including what constitutes an incident and a crime) is available at <https://www.psni.police.uk/globalassets/inside-the-psni/our-statistics/hate-motivation-statistics/documents/hate-motivations-definitions.pdf>

Please note that figures within the current financial year (i.e. from 1st April 2017) are provisional and will be subject to change.

Question 3

The number of knife related incidents occurring at newsagents and convenience stores.

Answer

There were two recorded offences where a knife/sharp instrument was recorded as involved in the incident from the 1st January 2017 – 30th April 2017 where the mo location subtype was newsagent or convenience store. Please note, that this includes possession of weapon offences.

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.

Please note that figures within the current financial year (i.e. from 1st April 2017) are provisional and will be subject to change.

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.