



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2017-00404

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Assaults Against Police Officers in the Past 5 Years

Request and Answer:

Question

I would like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Could you please tell me how many recorded physical assaults there have been against members of the PSNI in the last five years, broken down by year.

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.

Please find a table below which includes the requested information on the number of crimes of assault recorded between the years 2012 to 2016 where the victim was recorded as a police officer.

Year	Recorded Crimes of Assault where the victim was a Police Officer
2012	3,597
2013	3,287
2014	2,834
2015	2,919
2016	2,710

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch

The figures in the table above are based on those assault offences where the victim has been input as 'officer' and therefore would only relate to those assaults where the officer was on duty at the time. They include the following types of offence: Attempted murder, Causing death or serious injury by dangerous driving, Causing death or serious injury by careless or inconsiderate driving, Assault with intent to cause serious harm, Assault with injury, Assault without injury on a constable, Assault without injury, Aggravated vehicle taking.

Please note that figures within the period 1st April 2016 to 31st December 2016 are provisional and will be subject to change until the finalised figures for 2016/17 are published on 17th May 2017.

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.