



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2017-00457

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Paramilitary-Style Punishment Attacks

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

I am looking for statistics on paramilitary-style punishment attacks (both shootings and assaults) that I was unable to find in the most recent reports you have made public. If possible, I would like to know the following information since 1st January 2014, as current as possible - the clearance rates of these attacks?

#### Clarification Requested

Please confirm that for questions 1, 2 and 3 you require statistics from 1st January 2014 and for question 4 from 2009?

#### Clarification Received

I require statistics relating to points 1, 2 and 3 from 1 January 2018 and for point 4 from 1 January 2009.

#### Answer

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

There were 262 casualties as a result of paramilitary style attacks (PSAs) between 1st January 2014 and 31st January 2017, 181 casualties were as a result of assaults and 81 casualties were as a result of shootings. PSA's that result in death are counted in PSNI Security Statistics as security related deaths and are not reflected in the paramilitary style attack figures.

There have been 7 PSA offences recorded from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017 that have since been detected by means of charge/summons.

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.

#### Question 2

Ages and gender of victims?

## Answer

Table 1 shows a breakdown by age group for the 262 casualties of paramilitary style attacks.

**Table 1**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Number of casualties</b>
Under 16	2
16-25	109
26-35	82
36-45	46
46-55	18
56 and over	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>262</b>

Table 2 shows a breakdown by gender for the 262 casualties of paramilitary style attacks.

**Table 2**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Number of casualties</b>
Male	253
Female	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>262</b>

## Question 3

Type of weapon used?

## Answer

Table 3 lists the weapons that have been used on the 181 casualties of paramilitary style assaults. 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 3**

<b>Casualty Reference Number</b>	<b>Weapon</b>
Casualty 1	A BASEBALL BAT
Casualty 2	A BATON AND BRICKS
Casualty 3	A HAMMER
Casualty 4	A HAMMER
Casualty 5	A HAMMER
Casualty 6	A HAMMER AND A POSSIBLE HATCHET
Casualty 7	A HAMMER AND A POSSIBLE HATCHET
Casualty 8	A HAMMER AND IRON BARS
Casualty 9	A MALLET AND A HAMMER
Casualty 10	A METAL POLE
Casualty 11	A PICK AXE HANDLE
Casualty 12	A SLEDGE HAMMER AND A CROW BAR

Casualty 13	AIR WEAPON
Casualty 14	AXES AND HAMMERS.
Casualty 15	BASEBALL BAT
Casualty 16	BASEBALL BAT
Casualty 17	BASEBALL BAT
Casualty 18	BASEBALL BAT
Casualty 19	BASEBALL BAT
Casualty 20	BASEBALL BAT
Casualty 21	BASEBALL BAT
Casualty 22	BASEBALL BATS
Casualty 23	BASEBALL BATS
Casualty 24	BASEBALL BATS
Casualty 25	BASEBALL BATS
Casualty 26	BASEBALL BATS
Casualty 27	BASEBALL BATS
Casualty 28	BASEBALL BATS
Casualty 29	BASEBALL BATS
Casualty 30	BASEBALL BATS
Casualty 31	BASEBALL BATS
Casualty 32	BASEBALL BATS
Casualty 33	BASEBALL BATS
Casualty 34	BASEBALL BATS
Casualty 35	BASEBALL BATS
Casualty 36	BASEBALL BATS
Casualty 37	BASEBALL BATS
Casualty 38	BASEBALL BATS
Casualty 39	BASEBALL BATS
Casualty 40	BASEBALL BATS
Casualty 41	BASEBALL BATS & GOLF CLUBS
Casualty 42	BASEBALL BATS & HAMMER
Casualty 43	BASEBALL BATS & SLEDGE HAMMER
Casualty 44	BASEBALL BATS & SLEDGE HAMMER
Casualty 45	BASEBALL BATS AND A HATCHET
Casualty 46	BASEBALL BATS AND A HATCHET
Casualty 47	BASEBALL BATS AND HAMMERS
Casualty 48	BASEBALL BATS AND IRON BARS
Casualty 49	BASEBALL BATS AND SCREWDRIVERS
Casualty 50	BASEBALL BATS, WOODEN BATONS
Casualty 51	BASEBALL BATS/IRON BARS
Casualty 52	BASEBALL BATS/IRON BARS
Casualty 53	BAT
Casualty 54	BAT
Casualty 55	BATONS

Casualty 56	BATS
Casualty 57	BATS
Casualty 58	BATS & BLADE STUDDED WOOD
Casualty 59	BATS AND STICKS
Casualty 60	BRICKS
Casualty 61	BRICKS AND AXE
Casualty 62	CHAIRS
Casualty 63	CROW BAR
Casualty 64	CROW BAR
Casualty 65	CROWBAR
Casualty 66	CROWBARS
Casualty 67	FLICK BATON
Casualty 68	FLICK BATON
Casualty 69	FLICK BATON
Casualty 70	GOLF CLUB
Casualty 71	GUN
Casualty 72	HAMMER
Casualty 73	HAMMER
Casualty 74	HAMMER
Casualty 75	HAMMER
Casualty 76	HAMMER
Casualty 77	HAMMER, NAILS
Casualty 78	HAMMERS
Casualty 79	HAMMERS
Casualty 80	HAMMERS
Casualty 81	HAMMERS
Casualty 82	HAMMERS
Casualty 83	HAMMERS & AXE
Casualty 84	HAMMERS & BASEBALL BATS
Casualty 85	HAMMERS / KNUCKLE DUSTERS
Casualty 86	HAMMERS AND CROWBARS
Casualty 87	HANDGUN
Casualty 88	HANDGUN
Casualty 89	HANDGUN
Casualty 90	HANDGUN, IRON BAR
Casualty 91	HANDGUNS & HAMMER
Casualty 92	HATCHET
Casualty 93	HATCHET
Casualty 94	IRN BAR & HURLEY STICKS
Casualty 95	IRON BAR
Casualty 96	IRON BAR
Casualty 97	IRON BAR, AXE, HAMMER
Casualty 98	IRON BARS
Casualty 99	IRON BARS
Casualty 100	IRON BARS
Casualty 101	IRON BARS
Casualty 102	IRON BARS
Casualty 103	IRON BARS
Casualty 104	IRON BARS

Casualty 105	IRON BARS
Casualty 106	IRON BARS
Casualty 107	IRON BARS
Casualty 108	IRON BARS & TASER
Casualty 109	IRON BARS AND BASEBALL BATS
Casualty 110	IRON BARS AND BATONS
Casualty 111	IRON BARS AND BATS
Casualty 112	KNUCKLE DUSTER
Casualty 113	METAL BAR
Casualty 114	METAL BAR & BASEBALL BAT
Casualty 115	METAL POLE
Casualty 116	METAL POLES
Casualty 117	NAIL STUDDED BASEBALL BATS
Casualty 118	NAIL STUDDED BASEBALL BATS
Casualty 119	NAIL STUDDED BATS
Casualty 120	NAIL STUDDED BATS
Casualty 121	NONE/UNKNOWN
Casualty 122	NONE/UNKNOWN
Casualty 123	NONE/UNKNOWN
Casualty 124	NONE/UNKNOWN
Casualty 125	NONE/UNKNOWN
Casualty 126	NONE/UNKNOWN
Casualty 127	NONE/UNKNOWN
Casualty 128	NONE/UNKNOWN
Casualty 129	NONE/UNKNOWN
Casualty 130	NONE/UNKNOWN
Casualty 131	NONE/UNKNOWN
Casualty 132	NONE/UNKNOWN
Casualty 133	NONE/UNKNOWN
Casualty 134	NONE/UNKNOWN
Casualty 135	NONE/UNKNOWN
Casualty 136	NONE/UNKNOWN
Casualty 137	NONE/UNKNOWN
Casualty 138	NONE/UNKNOWN
Casualty 139	NONE/UNKNOWN
Casualty 140	NONE/UNKNOWN
Casualty 141	NONE/UNKNOWN
Casualty 142	NONE/UNKNOWN
Casualty 143	NONE/UNKNOWN
Casualty 144	NONE/UNKNOWN
Casualty 145	NONE/UNKNOWN
Casualty 146	NONE/UNKNOWN
Casualty 147	NONE/UNKNOWN
Casualty 148	NONE/UNKNOWN
Casualty 149	NONE/UNKNOWN
Casualty 150	NONE/UNKNOWN
Casualty 151	NONE/UNKNOWN
Casualty 152	NONE/UNKNOWN

Casualty 153	NONE/UNKNOWN
Casualty 154	NONE/UNKNOWN
Casualty 155	NONE/UNKNOWN
Casualty 156	NONE/UNKNOWN
Casualty 157	NONE/UNKNOWN
Casualty 158	PICK AXE HANDLES
Casualty 159	PICKAXE HANDLES & CROWBARS
Casualty 160	PLANK OF WOOD
Casualty 161	POLES
Casualty 162	POLES
Casualty 163	POLES & IRON BARS
Casualty 164	SHOTGUN
Casualty 165	SLEDGE AND BLOCK HAMMERS
Casualty 166	SLEDGE HAMMER & KNIFE
Casualty 167	SLEDGE HAMMERS
Casualty 168	SLEDGE HAMMERS AND BASEBALL BATS
Casualty 169	SLEDGE HAMMERS AND BASEBALL BATS
Casualty 170	SLEDGEHAMMER AND IRON BARS
Casualty 171	SPIKED KNUCKLE DUSTER
Casualty 172	STICKS
Casualty 173	STICKS
Casualty 174	STICKS AND BATS
Casualty 175	TASER
Casualty 176	WHEEL BRACE & HURLEY STICK
Casualty 177	WOODEN AND METAL STICKS AND POLES
Casualty 178	WOODEN BATONS
Casualty 179	WOODEN BATS
Casualty 180	WOODEN BATS
Casualty 181	WOODEN BATS

#### Question 4

Location of attacks (if possible, back to 2009)?

#### Answer

There were 688 casualties as a result of paramilitary style attacks between 1st January 2009 and 31st January 2017. As part of the Review of Public Administration which came into effect on 1st April 2015, PSNI moved from eight to eleven policing districts. Table 4 displays the number of casualties of paramilitary style attacks for the period 1st January 2009 to 31st March 2015 based on the pre-April 2015 policing districts (chart on next page shows these districts).

Table 5 displays the number of casualties of paramilitary style attacks for the period 1st April 2015 to 31st January 2017 based on the current 11 policing districts. The new 11 policing districts correspond to the 11 local government districts.

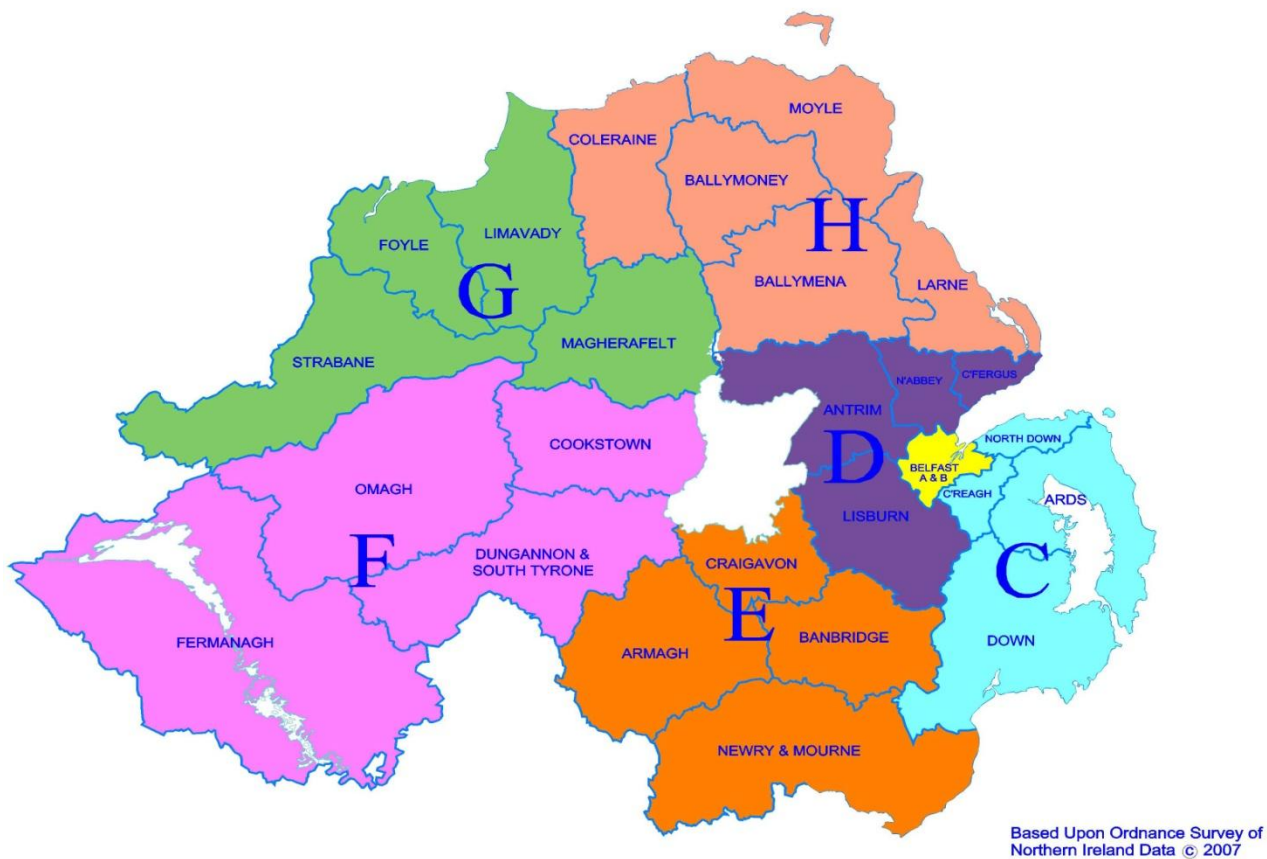
**Table 4**

<b>Policing District</b>	<b>Number of casualties</b>
A District	163
B District	51
C District	79
D District	99
E District	25
F District	2
G District	79
H District	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>538</b>

**Table 5**

<b>Policing District</b>	<b>Number of casualties</b>
Belfast City	73
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	2
Ards & North Down	12
Newry, Mourne & Down	1
Armagh City, Banbridge & Mid Ulster	3
Derry City & Strabane	4
Fermanagh & Omagh	10
Causeway Coast & Glens	0
Mid & East Antrim	7
Antrim & Newtownabbey	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>

Please note that all figures from 1st April 2016 are provisional and 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](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.