



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2017-02463

**Keyword:** Operational Policing

**Subject:** Noxious Substances

### Request and Answer:

Your requests for information have 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. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

#### Request 1

The number of incidents involving a noxious or corrosive substance since January 2014 in which the offender charged was under the age of 18.

#### Answer

No individual under the age of 18 was charged regarding crimes recorded between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017 where the modus operandi is recorded as weapons and subtype indicates 'Noxious substance/acid'.

#### Request 2

The age and gender of the youngest person charged with an offence involving a noxious or corrosive substance. We also request the specific charge for this offence, plus the month and year it took place.

#### Answer

No individual has been charged regarding crimes recorded between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017 where the modus operandi is recorded as weapons and subtype indicates 'Noxious substance/acid'.

#### Request 3

The number of reports received by your force involving a noxious or corrosive substance since January 2014 in which one or more of the victims affected was under 18.

#### Answer

For crimes recorded between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017 where the modus operandi is recorded as weapons and subtype indicates 'Noxious substance/acid' none of the victims were under 18.

#### **Request 4**

The age and gender of the youngest victim involved in a crime involving a noxious or corrosive substance. Plus the month and year of the attack.

#### **Answer**

For crimes recorded between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017 where the modus operandi is recorded as weapons and subtype indicates 'Noxious substance/acid', the youngest victim was a 29 year old male and the incident occurred in July 2016.

Please 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.

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.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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