



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: FOI-2017-03514

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Crimes Using Acid Or Corrosive Substance

Request and 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.

Request 1

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from Police Service of Northern Ireland:

How many reports of violence crimes were there using acid or other corrosive substance broken down into individual years from 2012 to date in 2017?

Answer

Please see table below showing the number of violence against the person offences recorded where the modus operandi involved 'noxious substance/acid' broken down by year between 2012 and 2017.

| Year | Number of Violence Against the Person Offences Recorded |
|------|---|
| 2012 | 2 |
| 2013 | 2 |
| 2014 | 1 |
| 2015 | 0 |
| 2016 | 1 |
| 2017 | 0 |

Request 2

How many victims were female?

Answer

2 of the victims were female.

Request 3

How many victims were male?

Answer

4 of the victims were male.

Request 4

Age groups of the victims – under 10, under 20, under 30, over 30.

Answer

Please find a table below showing the age groups of the victims.

| Age <10 | Age 10-19 | Age 20-29 | Age 30+ |
|---------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 |

Request 5

How many of these attacks was an arrest made, and which subsequently made it to court?

Answer

There were 2 arrests made. None of these occurrences shows a result of 'Court'.

Request 6

What was the ethnicity of the victim?

Answer

3 of the victims were white, no data is held in relation to the other occurrences.

Request 7

What was the ethnicity of the attacker?

Answer

3 of the attackers were white, no data is held in relation to the other occurrences.

Please note that while the inclusion of 'Noxious substance/acid' will be connected to the incident reported, the involvement may not be directly connected to the violence against the person offences recorded.

Only where a person was arrested and processed through to custody will an arrest be counted as part of the answer but note that it is possible for a suspect to be dealt with by other means, and this will not be included in the answer. Note that it is possible for an arrest to be made in relation to more than one crime.

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 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.

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.psnj.police.uk

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