



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2017-00822

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Voter Fraud

Request and Answer:

Question

I would like to know how many instances of potential voter fraud have been reported to PSNI since the beginning of 2017 to date. Where possible I would like this information broken down by constituency. I also wish to know whether each report came directly from a member of the public or reported by EONI.

Answer

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

Organised Crime Branch collates electoral offences and record incidents reported through the Electoral Commission for Northern Ireland. This is dependent on all relevant incidents being forwarded to the Branch.

Between 1st January 2017 and 28th April 2017, one report of electoral fraud was recorded. This report emanated from a member of the public to the Electoral Commission and related to the Newry and Armagh constituency.

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.