



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2018-01590

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Acid Attacks

### 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

The number of acid attacks that happened in your force area in 2015, 2016, 2017 and up to now in 2018.

#### Answer

There have been a total of 2 records in 2016 for the number of acid attacks in N. Ireland in the years 2015, 2016, 2017 and to present date in 2018.

PSNI Central Statistics Branch have ascertained this data by analysing crimes recorded during 2015, 2016, 2017 and to present date in 2018 where the weapon MO includes 'noxious substance/acid'.

Please note: The information above 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 similar words are entered elsewhere within the crime record but not within the MO\_weapons\_subtype then it will not have been identified through the search criteria.

#### Request 2

How many, if any, "acid response kits" have been issued to officers and how many of these have been used?

#### Answer

Searches were conducted by PSNI Procurement Branch; however these searches failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided.

The PSNI has stated that no acid response kits have been issued to PSNI officers and therefore no kits have been used.

Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

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.