



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-00027

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

Please can you tell me the number of acid attacks reported to you in each of the last five calendar years?

Answer

Please see table below showing the number of violence against the person offences recorded where the modus operandi (MO) weapons subtype is 'noxious substance/acid' broken down by year between 2011 and 2016.

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
2	1	0	1	0

Request 2

Can you also tell me for each of the reports how many victims there were and their gender.

Answer

In 2013 = In 1 incident 1 male victim and in the other incident 1 female victim.

In 2016 = 1 male victim.

Request 3

Can you also tell me if the crime was detected or not and what the outcome was. I.e. one offender arrested and charged, no offender identified etc.

Answer

In 2013, there was 1 arrest for 1 of the crimes.

In 2016, outcome was assigned as 'evidential difficulties'.

Records were identified based on violence against the person offences recorded by police (report

date between 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2017) where the MO weapons subtype (in occurrence MO) indicates 'Noxious substance/acid'. 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.

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.

The potential to apply an outcome code to **all** crimes was introduced in PSNI from 1st April 2015. Prior to this date crimes were only allocated an outcome where an offender was formally dealt with, such as by means of charge/summons, caution, community resolution, PND.

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.

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.