



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-00195

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Crimes Involving Acid / Machette 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

For the months of November and December 2017 how many crimes were logged by your force where a machete was recorded as being an element in the offence? [Note: I would hope that this could be achieved by a computer search on the MO of crimes for the words "machete" or variants of the spelling to include "machette" and "machetes".

Request 2

Please provide me with a table showing a breakdown of the crimes from Q.1 that are 'linked' to machete/s by its mention in the MO.

Request 3

Taking the month of December 2017 please provide me with copies of the first 5 MOs that mention machetes. [Note: To avoid falling into an exemption I am content for names, ages, geography or any other personal detail to be redacted].

Answers

There were 3 recorded crimes identified where machete was recorded in the modus operandi (MO) weapons subtype.

Request 4

For the months of November and December 2017 how many crimes were logged by your force where acid was recorded as being an element in the offence? [Note: I would hope that this could be achieved by a computer search on the MO of crimes for the words "acid" or "acid-attack".

Request 5

Please provide me with a table showing a breakdown of the crimes from Q.4 that are 'linked' to acid and acid attacks by its mention in the MO.

Request 6

Taking the month of December 2017 please provide me with copies of the first 5 MOs that mention

acid. [Note: To avoid falling into an exemption I am content for names, ages, geography or any other personal detail to be redacted].

Answers 4 – 6

Searches were conducted by PSNI Statistics Branch; however these searches failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

There were no records identified where violence against the person offence was recorded with a noxious/substance as the MO weapons subtype.

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.