



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-00703

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Hate Crime

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 and the decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Request 1

Hate crimes and incidents recorded. For each, the total number and the breakdown by monitored strand (race, religion, sexual orientation, disability and transgender, or other classification available) and by offence type (violence against the person, public order offences, criminal damage and arson, or other classification available), for each month of the calendar years 2015, 2016 and 2017.

Request 2

Hate crimes and incidents flagged as online crime recorded. For each, the total number and the breakdown by monitored strand (race, religion, sexual orientation, disability and transgender, or other classification available) and by offence type (violence against the person, public order offences, criminal damage and arson, or other classification available), for each month of the calendar years 2015, 2016 and 2017.

In the cases classified as religious hate crime, the breakdown by the perceived (by the offender) religion (or belief or faith) of the victim.

The date since when the online crime flag is being used by this police force.

Clarification from the requester: I would like to clarify that by "Hate crimes and incidents flagged as online crime recorded" I mean crimes which have occurred online (cyber-crime), no matter if they have later been reported online or in other ways.

I would like to receive that information in an electronic format, preferably in .xlsx or .csv.

If the information requested is not clear enough or if the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit, I would appreciate your assistance in rewriting or narrowing down my search terms.

Answer

Please see the Excel spreadsheet attached separately to this correspondence.

The following notes are applicable to the data being provided:

Crimes: As there may be more than one crime recorded within an individual incident, it is possible for the number of crimes with a particular hate motivation to be higher than the number of incidents with that motivation.

Incidents and Crimes: Hate-motivated crimes and hate-motivated incidents should not be added together as crimes for each motivation strand are included in the incident count for each hate motivation strand.

Revisions to incidents and crimes with a faith/religion or racist motivation recorded during 2016/17: Additional data quality checks on faith/religion motivations identified a number of incidents requiring a faith/religion motivation that had not previously been included in the figures. A small number of incidents were also found to have been incorrectly allocated a racist motivation and were subsequently amended to faith/religion. These checks were completed for the financial years 2016/17 and 2017/18. Similar checks will be conducted for the years prior to 2016/17 and any revisions to these figures will be incorporated in the next annual trends publication. As the data quality checks have not yet been completed for all financial years, any comparison of the faith/religion motivations provided in this publication with previously published figures should be avoided until the annual trends bulletin is published, the date for which will be pre-announced in due course.

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.