



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-01502

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Hate Crimes

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

Could you please supply the number of complaints of 'hate crimes' recorded by the PSNI for each policing district from June 2017 to May 2018, from June 2016 to May 2017, and from June 2015 to May 2016?

Request 2

Can you please break these hate crimes down into categories, such as race, religion, sexual orientation, etc?

Answer

Please find attached a spread sheet containing the information requested.

Please note: Please note that more than one motivation may be assigned to a crime so while the overall total identified by adding together all hate motivations during this 3 year period was 5,116, this relates to 5043 individual crimes.

Where you asked for numbers of "ongoing complaints" these have been identified as those crimes recorded where an outcome has not yet been assigned

Hate motivation definitions, along with what constitutes an incident and a crime are available at: https://www.psni.police.uk/globalassets/inside-the-psni/our-statistics/hate-motivation-statistics/hate_motivation_definitions.pdf The FOI team should be aware that in England and Wales they monitor five strands of hate crime (as specified in this FOI request) whereas in Northern Ireland we report on six types of hate crime with the additional strand relating to sectarian hate crime.

While crimes included within the police recorded crime statistics for Northern Ireland are individually checked for compliance with the Home Office Counting Rules by the PSNI's Statistics Branch, the identification of a hate motivation is derived from a motivation 'tick box' on the system used by PSNI to record crime. The motivation is identified and completed by a police officer or member of police staff for each such reported incident or crime. The correct application of a hate motivation for all such

incidents/crimes is not quality assured by the PSNI's Statistics Branch, but audits and data quality checks are routinely conducted in an attempt to ensure that any under or over-recording is corrected.

Request 3

Can you also tell me how many of these complaints are ongoing and how many have resulted in convictions

Answer

As stated above ongoing complaints can be found on the attached spread sheet. Please find information in relation to Convictions in offences reported as hate crime in the table below.

Year	No of Convictions
June 2015 – May 2016	68
June 2016 – May 2017	95
June 2017 – May 2018	80

Please note: The figures provided by ICS relate to occurrences where a conviction was made in that year. Convictions can be made in different years from the arrest; therefore the data does not directly correlate.

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.