



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-00676

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Hate Speech

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

Over the last five calendar years please can you tell me how many incidents of hate speech have been reported to the police force?

Answer

Between 2013 and 2017 there were 7 reports regarding hate speech which resulted in 8 crimes being recorded by the police. The following offences Public Order (NI) Order were included in the data search: Incitement to hatred, Using a recording to incite hatred and Behaviour intending or likely to stir up hatred.

Request 2

What category of hate speech each has come under e.g. racism, antisemitism

Answer

3 of the 7 reports were recorded under the racist hate motivation strand, 3 under the sectarian hate motivation strand and 1 had no hate motivation assigned.

Request 3

How many reports have led to an arrest or caution of if no action was taken after investigating?

Answer

4 of the 7 reports resulted in arrest and charge, 1 resulted in arrest but no further action regarding the 'hate speech' offence, 1 resulted in no prosecution (there was no arrest) and 1 was closed as investigation complete no suspect.

Please note the hate motivation definitions can be found on the PSNI website at

<https://www.psnipolice.uk/globalassets/inside-the-psni/our-statistics/hate-motivation-statistics/documents/hate-motivations-definitions.pdf>

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.psnj.police.uk

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.