



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2018-02029

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** On-line 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

The total number of reported online crimes recorded as a Violence Against the Person offence – with a sub class of: Violence Without Injury (specifically: 3B – Threats to kill, 105B – Racially or Religiously Aggravated Assault without Injury) and Stalking and Harassment (specifically: 8L – Harassment, 8M – Racially or Religiously Aggravated Harassment, 8Q – Stalking, 8R – Malicious Communications) as per HO Counting Rules\* – broken down by gender of victim, over the following time periods:

- a. 01 April 2015 to 31 March 2016
- b. 01 April 2016 to 31 March 2017
- c. 01 April 2017 to 31 March 2018
- d. 01 April 2018 – current

**Clarification provided** - with an 'Internet Involved' (or similar) Special Interest Marker

Please note, I do not need separate figures for each offence, but a total overall figure (i.e. a total for all of the specified offences combined, broken down by financial year and gender of victim).

#### Answer

On-line crime figures by crime type, victim gender and victim age are published on the PSNI website in the Police Recorded Crime Annual Trends 1998/99 to 2017/18 (bulletin and summary tables spreadsheet tables 4.1 to 4.3, also including on-line crime definition & guidance.) This information can be accessed via the link provided below:

<https://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/police-recorded-crime-statistics/>

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](mailto: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](http://www.psnj.police.uk)

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