



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-02752

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Police Officers Who Are Victims Of 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

The number of racially or religiously aggravated offences recorded by your police force where the victim is a police officer, by month, since November 2014

Answer

PSNI Statistics Branch advise that for the time period requested (November 2014 until the last quarter ending September 2018) there were no crimes against officers recorded with a faith/religion motivation. There were 9 offences against officers with a racist motivation in this time period as under:

Month/Year	Number of racially motivated offences
Apr 2015	2
May 2015	1
Aug 2015	3
Dec 2015	1
Jan 2016	1
Jun 2018	1
Total	9

Number of racially motivated offences where victim was a police officer on duty since November 2014

Please note: Changes can be expected to crimes recorded from 1st April 2018 as records are subject to ongoing validation and quality assurance processes until publication in May 2019; annual revisions to previously published financial year figures may also be applied at this time.

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.

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.