



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2018-00616

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Racially or Religiously Aggravated 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. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

#### Request 1

How many Racist and Religiously aggravated hate crimes were reported to your force between 1st January and 31st December in the following years?

#### Request 2

Of the Racially or Religiously aggravated hate crimes listed in Question 1 – how many were reports against one, or more, female victims.

#### Request 3

Of the Racially or Religiously aggravated hate crimes reported in Question 1 – how many of these resulted in at least one person being charged.

#### Answer

In PSNI the crime classifications of racist and religiously aggravated hate crimes are not recorded as the relevant legislation does not apply in the same way in Northern Ireland. Within PSNI such crimes are recorded as those with a racist motivation or those with a faith/religion motivation. The relevant definitions and method of recording are attached for information. Section 9 of the latest annual trends bulletin also provides a wider context in terms of how hate crimes are recorded in E&W compared with NI (link provided below to where annual trends bulletin can be accessed).

The number of crimes with a racist or faith/religion motivation is published on the PSNI website. Information can be found in the latest annual trends publication (covering to 2016/17) and also in the latest quarterly update which covers to 31st December 2017. Finalised figures for 2017/18 will be published on 17th May and publication of an updated annual trends bulletin covering to 2017/18 will be pre-announced in due course. Annual trends publications will show the number of charge/summons disposals for racist and faith/religion crimes during the financial years presented (Table 2.12 racist and Table 5.5 faith/religion). A gender breakdown in relation to racist hate crime is provided in the spreadsheet accompanying the annual trends publication (table 2.9).

<https://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/hate-motivation-statistics/>

Information on outcomes (including charge/summons) that have since been assigned to crimes with a hate motivation is published in the bulletin 'Police Crime Outcomes in Northern Ireland 2015/16 and 2016/17 (table 3.7). <https://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/police-recorded-crime-statistics/> (see links contained within section on Outcomes of Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland 2015/16 and 2016/17)

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.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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