



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2018-01063

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Victims of Crime with a Disability

### 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

Do you record disability of the victim when a crime is reported? If so, please provide me with the following:

(a) The number, and percentage, of crimes in the last 5 years that involved a person with a disability; i.e.

- i. 2012-2013
- ii. 2013-2014
- iii. 2014-2015
- iv) 2015 – 2016
- v) 2016 -2017

(b) The number, and percentage, of crimes in the last 5 years of rape or sexual assault that involved a person with a disability; i.e.

- i. 2012-2013 etc.

(c) A list of all reported incidents of rape and sexual assault in the last 5 years against people with a disability in your catchment area; i.e.

- i. 2012-2013 etc.

Could you please provide the nature of the incident (eg sexual assault, rape), I do not require characteristics of the incidents eg gender, age, location etc.

#### Answer

Figures on the number of hate motivated crimes, by type motivation including disability for each financial year requested is published on the PSNI website and can be accessed through hate Motivation statistics link below:

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

See link to excel spreadsheet specific to disability incidents and crimes:

<https://www.psni.police.uk/globalassets/inside-the-psni/our-statistics/hate-motivation-statistics/disability-incidents-and-crimes-in-northern-ireland-2005-06-to-2016-17.xls>

Table 6.2 provides a breakdown by year by the main crime types. Sexual offences are incorporated in the 'Other offences' category. Sexual offences are not specifically broken down due to the very small number of offences recorded each year, the number of 'other offences' ranges from one to eleven in the years requested, to provide a lower level of disaggregation would be highly disclosive.

### **Hate Motivation Definitions**

Hate crime is defined as any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic. PSNI also use the principles of this definition to record non-crime hate incidents<sup>1</sup>. Within PSNI there are six strands of hate motivation that are monitored; Race, Homophobia (sexual orientation), Sectarianism, Faith/religion (non-sectarian), Disability and Transphobia.

### **Data accuracy**

While crimes included within the police recorded crime statistics for Northern Ireland are individually checked for compliance with the Home Office Counting Rules, 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 2**

Do you record crimes by type of impairment? If so, please provide me with the following:

(a) The definitions used

(b) The same requests as above (a-c) of people with a learning disability (or a similar category within your definitions) and the same requests as above (a –c) of people with a physical disability.

### **Answer**

Statistics branch do not record disability crimes by type of impairment. There is a disability field in the person record on NICHE but this does not relate to the specific crime that has been reported, the field contains the latest disability information associated with the individual. It is not appropriate to use this field to provide information by type of impairment. There are 315 disability motivated crimes recorded in the five years requested, the disability field is blank or contains 'none' in 62 per cent of the records.

### **Request 3**

Do you provide disability awareness training for your staff? If so, what percentage of your staff has undertaken this training?

### **Answer**

Throughout the service there is a plethora of training provided for both staff and officers dependent upon their area of work and relevant posting. District training and subject experts provide bespoke training on specialist disability related education as and when required, e.g. mental health training, autism awareness, etc.

In relation to generic disability training there is an ELearning Package which is accessible to all staff and officers "Police and Disability". As of 3/8/18 completion numbers sit at 4784.

### **Request 4**

Do you provide easy read materials in your station/s? If so, please provide me with a list of the documents/leaflets you have in easy read format.

**Answer**

Yes, please see below list of the documents/leaflets in easy read format:

Disability Hate Crime Booklet  
Multi Agency Concern Hub

These leaflets are produced only on request.

**Request 5**

Are your stations wheelchairs accessible?

**Answer**

Following guidance from Disability Action we commenced and delivered DDA access to all Station public areas. As part of this Public Enquiry Office counters have been adapted for wheelchair users. Any new build Stations, extensions and renovations to existing stations are designed to Building Control regulations Part R: access and use of buildings.

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.