



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-01390

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Weapons Involved in Murders

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

I would like to know please for each of the following years 2015/16; 2016/17 and 2017/18:
The number of murders
How many of those involved a bladed weapon
How many of those involved a firearm
The sanction-detection rate

Answer

Please see table below detailing the information requested. This Information has been extracted from the recorded crime series where an offence of murder was recorded. The outcome rate calculation is the number of recorded murder offences that have had a sanction outcome recorded in the time period / number of recorded murder offences in the same time period multiplied by 100.

Statistics Branch produces Knife and Sharp instrument statistics following the Home Office methodology. Since April 2007 the Home Office has collected additional data from police forces on offences involving knives and sharp instruments, where a sharp instrument is any object that pierces the skin (or in the case of a threat is capable of piercing the skin), e.g. a broken bottle. Knives and sharp instruments are taken to be involved in an incident if they are used to stab or cut, or as a threat. In addition to the preparation of these statistics if a firearm has been involved in an incident it will be recorded during the production of these statistics.

The knife and sharp instrument figures presented here are based on weapon details taken from a live operational system and are therefore subject to change.

	2015/16		2016/17		2017/18	
	Recorded	Outcome Rate	Recorded	Outcome Rate	Recorded	Outcome Rate
Murder	21	71.4%	12	100.0%	23	78.3%
of which involved a firearm	4		5		2	
of which involved a knife/sharp instrument¹	8		3		7	

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch

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.