



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-01515

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Troubles Related 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 so-called punishment attacks - including beatings, shootings, tarring and feathering - were carried out during the period of the Troubles, broken down by year?

Request 2

Would it be possible to attribute such attacks to (a) loyalist groups and (b) republican groups?

The request does not define the period of 'the Troubles', however this is generally accepted to be from the late 60s/early 70s to the Good Friday Agreement (10 April 98). Statistics are provided by PSNI Statistics Branch to 9 April 1998 (the day before the Good Friday Agreement), where available.

Answer To Request 1 & 2

The annual number of paramilitary style assaults and shootings by attribution are published in the accompanying spreadsheet on the PSNI Statistics Branch's website at the following link:

www.psni.police.uk/SecuritySituationStatistics.

Figures for paramilitary style shootings are available from 1973. Figures for paramilitary style assaults are available from 1982. Paramilitary style assaults/shootings that result in death are counted as security related deaths and are not reflected in the paramilitary style assault/shooting figures. Attribution is as perceived by PSNI based on the information available at the time of the incident and does not necessarily indicate the involvement of a paramilitary organisation.

Figures in relation to persons tarred and feathered are not published on the website; please see **Table 1** below. No records were kept specifically for tarrings and featherings post-1989. Attribution was not recorded for these incidents.

Table 1: Number of persons tarred and feathered that were recorded by the PSNI between 1971 and 1989.

| Year | Number of persons tarred and feathered ⁽¹⁾ |
|------|---|
| 1971 | 27 |
| 1972 | 28 |
| 1973 | 8 |
| 1974 | 17 |
| 1975 | 19 |
| 1976 | 13 |
| 1977 | 20 |
| 1978 | 6 |
| 1979 | 4 |
| 1980 | 2 |
| 1981 | 2 |
| 1982 | 1 |
| 1983 | 5 |
| 1984 | 0 |
| 1985 | 0 |
| 1986 | 0 |
| 1987 | 0 |
| 1988 | 7 |
| 1989 | 2 |

(1) Does not necessarily only include people who were tarred and feathered. Person may have had hair shaved off, paint poured over them, or a combination of these things; generally classified under the term 'tarred and feathered'.

Request 3

How many shootings and bombings were carried out during the period of the Troubles, broken down by year?

Request 4

Would it be possible to attribute such attacks to (a) loyalist groups and (b) republican groups?

Answer

Figures for the number of shooting incidents linked to the security situation are available from 1969 and by attribution from 1987. Figures for the number of devices used in bombing incidents linked to the security situation are available from 1969. From 1990 figures are available for the number of bombing incidents (an individual bombing incident may involve one or more explosive devices) by attribution. Figures have been provided to 9th April 1998 (the day before the Good Friday Agreement). Figures can be found in **Table 2**.

Table 2: Number of shootings incidents, number of bombing incidents and number of devices used in bombing incidents that were recorded by the PSNI between 1969 and 10 April 1998.

| Year | Number of Shooting Incidents ⁽²⁾ | | | | Bombing Incidents ⁽³⁾ | | | | Number of Devices Used in Bombing Incidents |
|---------------------|---|------------|---------|---------------|----------------------------------|------------|---------|------------|---|
| | Loyalist | Republican | Unknown | Total | Loyalist | Republican | Unknown | Total | Total |
| 1969 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 73 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 10 |
| 1970 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 213 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 170 |
| 1971 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 1,756 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 1,515 |
| 1972 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 10,631 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 1,853 |
| 1973 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 5,019 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 1,520 |
| 1974 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 3,208 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 1,113 |
| 1975 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 1,803 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 635 |
| 1976 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 1,908 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 1,192 |
| 1977 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 1,081 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 535 |
| 1978 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 755 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 633 |
| 1979 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 728 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 564 |
| 1980 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 642 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 400 |
| 1981 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 1,142 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 529 |
| 1982 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 547 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 332 |
| 1983 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 424 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 367 |
| 1984 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 334 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 248 |
| 1985 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 238 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 215 |
| 1986 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 392 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 254 |
| 1987 | 142 | 317 | 215 | 674 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 384 |
| 1988 | 88 | 229 | 221 | 538 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 458 |
| 1989 | 130 | 226 | 210 | 566 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 420 |
| 1990 | 122 | 238 | 197 | 557 | 14 | 220 | 2 | 236 | 286 |
| 1991 | 113 | 254 | 132 | 499 | 10 | 302 | 0 | 312 | 368 |
| 1992 | 163 | 215 | 128 | 506 | 7 | 311 | 0 | 318 | 371 |
| 1993 | 202 | 166 | 108 | 476 | 56 | 201 | 0 | 257 | 289 |
| 1994 | 191 | 103 | 54 | 348 | 65 | 140 | 2 | 207 | 222 |
| 1995 | 10 | 15 | 25 | 50 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 1996 | 50 | 34 | 41 | 125 | 3 | 11 | 3 | 17 | 25 |
| 1997 | 90 | 76 | 59 | 225 | 18 | 59 | 1 | 78 | 93 |
| 1998 ⁽⁴⁾ | 29 | 28 | 12 | 69 | 17 | 11 | 1 | 29 | 39 |

(2) The following types of shooting incidents are included:

- Shots fired by terrorists
- Shots fired by the security forces
- Paramilitary-style attacks involving shootings
- Shots heard (and later confirmed)
- Other violent incidents where shots are fired (eg armed robbery)

(3) An individual bombing incident may involve one or more explosive devices. Incidents recorded include explosions and defusings (devices used). Incidents involving hoax devices, petrol bombings or incendiaries are excluded.

(4) Figures cover the period 1 January 1998 to 9th April 1998.

(5) Attribution is as perceived by PSNI based on the information available at the time of the incident and does not necessarily indicate the involvement of a paramilitary organisation.

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.