

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2022-00996

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Hate Crimes Targeting Russians

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

Please provide: The number of offences targeting Russian individuals and/or Russian premises from 24 February 2022 to 21 April 2022? Can you also please provide details of these offences where possible (I'm not asking for personal information about the victims – rather, I'm hoping for a bit more information about the nature of the incidents, e.g., vandalism, hate crime, etc.)

Answer

There were no recorded offences with a racist motivation where the victim's nationality was 'Russian', during the period 24 February 2022 - 19 April 2022.

Request 2

The number of offences targeting Russian individuals and/or Russian premises from 23 February 2021 to 23 February 2022?

Answer

There were two recorded offences with a racist motivation where the victim's nationality was 'Russian', during the period 23 February 2021 - 23 February 2022. There was one offence of harassment and one offence of malicious communications.

Request 3

The number of hate incidents targeting Russian individuals and/or Russian premises from 24 February 2022 to 21 April 2022? Can you also please provide details of these incidents where possible. (I'm not asking for personal information about the victims – rather, I'm hoping for a bit more information about the nature of the incidents.)

Request 4

The number of hate incidents targeting Russian individuals and/or Russian premises from 23 February 2021 to 23 February 2022?

Answer to Request 3 and 4

A search of Hate – Racial incidents reported to PSNI within the specified time frame using the key words “Russia” and “Russian” returned zero hits.

Please Note

The above information is based on data extracted from a live system and may be subject to change. It is dependent on the information having been input into the system in such a way as to identify those records that are relevant.

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 Corporate Information Branch, 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 Corporate Information Branch, 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 remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner’s Office, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, 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’, or use the ICO self-service portal available at www.ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/officialinformation-concerns-report/official-information-concern/

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 their discretion.

Please be advised that PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ www.psnipolice.uk

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