

Keeping People Safe



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2021-01719

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** On-Line Racial Abuse

### 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 can I request the following information: How many reports of online racial abuse / written material likely to stir up racial hatred did your force receive between 1st January 2021 and 19th July 2021?

### Answer

23

### Request 1(i)

Please provide a breakdown per month?

### Answer

Date	Number
January 2021	3
February 2021	3
March 2021	6
April 2021	3
May 2021	4
June 2021	1
1 <sup>st</sup> to 19 July 2021	3

### Request 2

How many children (anybody under the age of 18) did your force identify as the alleged perpetrator of online racial abuse, or displaying written material that is likely to stir up racial hatred, between 1st January 2021 and 19th July 2021?

**Answer**

9 persons were aged under 18.

**Request 2(i)**

Please provide a breakdown per month?

**Answer**

Date	Number
January 2021	2
February 2021	1
March 2021	1
April 2021	3
May 2021	NIL
June 2021	NIL
1 <sup>st</sup> to 19 July 2021	2

**Request 2(ii)**

Please provide a breakdown by age of the alleged perpetrator.

**Answer**

Age	Number in that Age
12 years	2
13 years	1
14 years	2
15 years	1
16 years	1
17 years	1
Age not ascertained	1 - Believed to be under 18

**Request 2(iii)**

Please provide a breakdown of the outcomes of each incident. For example, how many resulted in an arrest? How many resulted in a warning being given?

**Answer**

No complaint x 3

No Complaint with Advice and Guidance Given x 4

2 had Prosecution Files prepared with the following results: Youth Engagement Caution and a Youth Conference Plan.

No persons were arrested

**Request 3**

How many reports of online racial abuse / written material likely to stir up racial hatred did your force receive between 1st January 2020 and 19th July 2020?

**Answer**

13

**Request 3(i)**

Please provide a breakdown per month?

**Answer**

Date	Number
January 2020	NIL
February 2020	NIL
March 2020	3
April 2020	2
May 2020	2
June 2020	4
1 <sup>st</sup> to 19 July 2020	2

**Request 4**

How many children (anybody under the age of 18) did your force identify as the alleged perpetrator of online racial abuse, or displaying written material that is likely to stir up racial hatred, between 1st January 2020 and 19th July 2020?

**Answer**

3 persons were aged under 18.

**Request 4(i)**

Please provide a breakdown per month?

**Answer**

Date	Number
January 2020	NIL
February 2020	NIL
March 2020	NIL
April 2020	2
May 2020	1
June 2020	NIL
1 <sup>st</sup> to 19 July 2020	NIL

**Request 4(ii)**

Please provide a breakdown by age of the alleged perpetrator.

**Answer**

Age	Number in that Age
11 years	1
12 years	NIL
13 years	NIL
14 years	NIL
15 years	NIL
16 years	NIL
17 years	1
Age not ascertained	1 - Believed to be under 18

**Request 4 (iii)**

Please provide a breakdown of the outcomes of each incident. For example, how many resulted in a conviction? How many resulted in a warning being given?

**Answer**

No Complaint Made x 2

Suspect could not be traced X 1

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

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