



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2022-01831

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Reports of Domestic Abuse in which victim identifies as LGBTQ

Request and Answer:

Request

I write, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, to request the number of reports of domestic abuse received by this force where the victim identified as part of the LGBTQ community between January 2017 and June 2022.

As part of this request, I would like the information to be broken down into the following:

Request 1

The number of domestic abuse reports received by this force where the victim identified as part of the LGBTQ+ community broken down into months, years and a grand total;

Request 2

The number of domestic abuse reports received by this force where the victim identified as heterosexual, broken down into months, years and a grand total;

Answer

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Act we can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold information in relation to your requests. Enquiries made in relation to your request failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided.

There is no record whether a victim identifies as part of the LGBTQ+ community. While there is a sexual orientation field, this is minimally completed as it is not a mandatory field (around 1%) and alone would not be sufficient to determine whether a victim identified as part of the LGBTQ+ community.

As mentioned above, while there is a sexual orientation field on Niche, this is rarely used. 996 of the 94,989 domestic abuse offences with a person victim during this time period had sexual orientation information available. There are no other fields on our system that would indicate a victim's sexual orientation, or how they identified.

Accordingly, we have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

Advice and Assistance

As mentioned above we do hold sexual orientation, we can provide the recorded instances where people have identified their sexual orientation.

Submission of a refined request would be treated as a new request, and considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, including consideration of relevant Part II exemptions.

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.psni.police.uk

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