

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2021-03068

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Domestic Violence Statistics During the Troubles

Request and Answer:

Request 1

Statistical information on the number of domestic violence / abuse reports made to the Police or any government bodies in Northern Ireland from 1968-1998 inclusive.

Request 2

Any Northern Ireland Police reports and Chief Constable's annual reports where domestic violence / abuse rates are detailed between the years 1968-1998 inclusive.

If either of these is unsuccessful, please state whether domestic violence / abuse as terms are not mentioned at all in the reports.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would be able to break down this information year by year.

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

Advice and Assistance

Prior to 2002/03, PSNI recorded crime statistics were published in the Annual Report of the Chief Constable. Scanned images of the relevant crime tables from these reports, dating from 1968 until 2001/02 and stored as PDF files, are available on the Police Recorded Crime Statistics Archive webpage: <https://www.psnipolice.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/police-recorded-crime-statistics/police-recorded-crime-statistics-archive/>. Domestic violence or abuse are not listed as specific crimes on these reports but these Crime Tables may be of use for further information. In relation to request two, the hard copies of the Chief Constable's annual reports may be held by Stormont.

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.