

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2021-00069

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Hate Crime Against Police Officers

Request and 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 hold information to which your request relates and the decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Request

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act for data on hate crimes charged in which the victim was a police officer or employee. For each year 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20 please provide:

- a) Numbers of hate crimes charged.
- b) Numbers of hate crimes charged in which the victim was a police officer or employee.
- c) Numbers of hate crimes charged in which the victim was a police officer and the hate crime was a non-violent public order offence (i.e (c) is a subset of (b)).

There should be nine data points in your response.

Answer

As per previous advice provided on 11th February 2021, the following response is based on police officers only.

Please see the table below detailing recorded hate offences with an assigned outcome of 'Charge/Charged Alternate', 2017/18 - 2019/20.

The following notes are applicable to the data provided

The following table is based on the number of recorded hate offences which have resulted in an assigned outcome of 'Charged' or 'Charged Alternate', in the years 2017/18 - 2019/20. Each included offence will have involved one or more hate motivations.

An outcome of 'Charged Alternate' is assigned to a recorded offence when a suspect is charged with an alternative, lesser offence than that which has been recorded in accordance with the Home Office Counting Rules. The material facts relating to the circumstances of the originally recorded crime remain the same. A 'lesser offence' is an offence which carries a lesser penalty.

There may be recorded hate offences from the period covered which have not yet received an assigned outcome. These may yet result in an outcome of 'Charged/Charged Alternate'.

Police officer victims have been identified through the 'Officer' victim type.

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Recorded hate offences with an assigned outcome of 'Charged' or 'Charged Alternate'	94	95	81
Of which the victim type was 'officer'	2	2	8
Of which related to a non-violent public order offence	0	0	0

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 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.