



# FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2021-00177

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Arson attacks on houses/cars/other property of foreign nationals

**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. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

**Request**

On the back of the arson attack on the Belfast Multi-Cultural Association building on Donegall Pass, I was hoping to find out some statistics about similar arson attacks on houses/cars/other property of foreign nationals in the area over the last five years.

**Answer**

Table below provides Arson offences against foreign nationals in Belfast - Central ward, 2016 - 2021

The information is based on two data sets: firstly, all recorded Arson offences where the victim was not a UK or Ireland national and; secondly all recorded Arson offences where there was a racist or faith/religion motivation. Both data sets cover offences recorded in the 'Belfast - Central' ward, for the period February 2016 - January 2021.

- Where an offence has occurred in both data sets, it has only been counted once.
- Of the 11 offences identified, 4 of them had a hate motivation.
- Arson offences include 'Arson endangering life' and 'Arson not endangering life'.

	February - December 2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	January - February 2021
<b>Arson Offences</b>	1	4	1	1	3	1

**Please Note:** This 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. Not all person victims of arson offences had a nationality

recorded.

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

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