



# FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2020-00866

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Paramilitary Crime & Public Disorder

**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 1**

Firstly, it would be great if I could have a gendered breakdown of the casualties of paramilitary style shootings and assaults from January 2016 onwards. In addition, if I could have a breakdown of the gender of casualties of paramilitary style shootings and assaults, specifically for the year ended 29th 2020, that would be much appreciated.

**Answer**

Please see the table below detailing the number of casualties of paramilitary style assaults and shootings between 1st January 2016 and 29th February 2020 by gender of victim.

Calendar Year	Number of casualties of paramilitary style assaults		Total Assaults	Number of casualties of paramilitary style shootings		Total Shootings
	Male	Female		Male	Female	
2016	62	3	65	20	0	20
2017	72	1	73	26	2	28
2018	49	2	51	17	0	17
2019 <sup>(1)</sup>	63	4	67	18	0	18
2020 <sup>(1,2)</sup>	6	0	6	2	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>85</b>

(1) Data for 2019 and 2020 is provisional and subject to change. Data correct as at publication on 6 March 2020.  
 (2) Data covers the period 1st January 2020 to 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

## Request 2

Secondly, I don't have a list of postcodes in relation to interfaces areas at the moment, and time constraints may prohibit compiling such a list. However, would it be possible to provide information on sectarian hate crimes and paramilitary style shootings and assaults which occurred close to interfaces in Belfast for example?

## Answer

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 legislates for the rights of an individual to seek access to recorded information held by a public authority. Section 84 of the Act only extends to requests for recorded information and does not require public authorities to answer questions, unless of course the answer is already held in recorded form.

Enquiries made in relation to your request failed to locate any records or documents held by PSNI relevant to your request based on the information you have provided. There is no geographical indicator in our recorded data for '*interfaces in Belfast*'. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

## Request 3

Thirdly, thank you for helping me to find information on rioting and public disorder. Would it be possible to provide information on where these riots occurred, preferably from January 2016 onwards.

## Answer

Please see the table below detailing police recorded crime figures for classification 62A Violent Disorder split into riot and violent disorder for the calendar years 2016 to 2019 and for each policing district.

Policing District	2016		2017		2018		2019	
	Riot	Violent Disorder	Riot	Violent Disorder	Riot	Violent Disorder	Riot	Violent Disorder
Belfast City	7	10	6	10	2	5	30	24
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ards & North Down	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newry, Mourne & Down	0	1	0	6	1	1	0	0
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	1	2	0	0	0	1	1	0
Mid Ulster	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Fermanagh & Omagh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Derry City & Strabane	1	8	0	8	0	11	12	2
Causeway Coast & Glens	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Mid & East Antrim	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0
Antrim & Newtownabbey	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>28</b>

**Please note:** figures from 1st April 2019 are provisional and subject to change. The higher levels seen in 2019 are largely the result of enhanced data checks and a more strict application of the rules governing crime recording.

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.