



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: FOI-2021-01146

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Disability Hate Crime

Request and Answer:

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Act I can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does hold some information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Request 1

How many disability hate crimes have been recorded by your police force for the last two financial years –2019/20 and 2020/21?

Request 3

How many disability hate crimes during each financial year (2019/20 and 2020/21) concerned acts of violence against a person?

Request 4

How many incidents of disability hate crime were recorded as taking place online in each financial year (2019/20 and 2020/21)?

Answers 1, 3 and 4

Please see the information requested which is provided in the separate spreadsheet.

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.

Request 2

How many disability hate crimes were committed by repeat offenders (of a previous disability hate crime) in the last two financial years- 2019/20 and 2020/21?

Answer

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Act and we can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold information in relation to your request.

PSNI records hate crime motivations on the database at the occurrence level; however the database does not link directly to a suspect or the offences they have committed. Whilst PSNI can review an

occurrence as a whole and indicate whether hate crime was involved, unfortunately we cannot determine if individual suspects within an occurrence are deemed to have committed a hate crime.

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

Request 5

How many of the recorded disability hate crimes in each financial year (2019/20 and 2020/21) resulted in a PPS referral?

Request 6

How many of the recorded online disability hate crimes in each financial year (2019/20 and 2020/21) resulted in a PPS referral?

Answers 5 and 6

Please see the information requested in the table below regarding referrals to the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) :

Financial Year	Non-Online Hate Crime Referred to PPS	Online Hate Crime Referred to PPS
2019/20	9	1
2020/21	7	2

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.