

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2021-01785

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Police Officers As Victims Of 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 information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Request 1

Can you please state how many police officers have been victims of a crime in the past five years?

Request 2

Can you please break it down per year?

Request 3

And can you please indicate how many incidents there have been, in each year, for each offence?

Request 4

I'm particularly keen to know how many officers have been the victim of GBH, attempted murder and murder over the past five years.

I'd still like these broken down over the past five years please.

Answer

Please see attached Excel Spreadsheet titled 'Officer Victims of Crime'.

The provided table is based on all recorded offences where the victim type was 'Officer', broken down by financial year, 2016/17 - 2020/21. An 'Officer' victim is a police officer who was the victim of a crime in the course of carrying out their duty.

Please note that the increase in the 'GBH/wounding with intent, GBH, wounding' grouping may reflect circumstances where an officer is spat on (or potentially may be bitten without breaking the skin) and the suspect has Covid19 or mentions Covid19. Under these circumstances the offence would be recorded as Attempted GBH with Intent.

'All other violence against the person' grouping includes conspiracy to murder, threats to kill, and harassment.

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.psni.police.uk

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