

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2020-01952

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Hate Crime

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

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following assault statistics.

The number of attacks where the officer reported the ethnic appearance of the victim as "Oriental" between January and September 2020, compared to the same period last year.

Request 2

A breakdown of those attacks - whether they were verbal, online, physical, or any other form – and the number for each of them.

Answer

Please see the table below detailing Recorded Violence Against the Person offences where the victim's ethnicity was classified as 'Chinese' or 'Historic - Chinese, Japanese, SE Asian', 2019-20.

Notes applicable to the data provided:

The following table shows the number of recorded occurrences of selected Violence Against the Person offences, where the victim's ethnicity was classified as 'Chinese' or 'Historic - Chinese, Japanese, SE Asian' for the period January - September in 2019 and 2020.

Online offences have been identified through the use of a 'cyber' flag placed on relevant records. This is in accordance with the Home Office definition of online crime. Please see below for further information on what constitutes an online crime and associated data quality issues.

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.*

Violence Against the Person offences	January - September 2019	January - September 2020
Violence With Injury ¹	24	6
Violence Without Injury ²	33	10
Harassment	10	11
<i>Of which had a 'cyber' motivation marker</i>	2	4

1. Includes offences of '5D Assault with intent to cause serious harm' and '8N Assault with injury'

2. Includes offences of '3B Threats to kill' and '105A Assault without injury'

Online Crime - Home Office Definition and Guidance

Online crime (formerly cyber-crime) is identified through the use of a 'flag' on the crime recording system. Its aim is to help provide a national and local picture of the extent to which the internet and digital communications technology are being used to commit crimes. An offence should be flagged where the reporting officer believes that on the balance of probability the offence was committed, in full or in part, through a computer, computer network or other computer-enabled device.

Below is an outline of the circumstances in which a crime should be flagged as 'online':

- a crime was committed online or through internet-based activities, such as: sending or receiving emails, use of social media or networking sites, use of internet forums or blogs, online auction or retail sites, communication via online video game networks or communications platforms; and*

- a crime was committed online or through internet-based activities, such as: sending or receiving emails, use of social media or networking sites, use of internet forums or blogs, online auction or retail sites, communication via online video game networks or communications platforms; and*

Data quality: While crimes included within the police recorded crime statistics for Northern Ireland are individually checked for compliance with the Home Office Counting Rules, the identification of an online crime is derived from a motivation 'tick box' on the system used by PSNI to record crime. The motivation is identified and completed by a police officer or member of police staff for each such reported incident or crime. The correct application of an online motivation for all such incidents/crimes is not quality assured by the PSNI Statistics Branch. As Online Crime has not been assessed as a National Statistic it is being presented here as an Official Statistic.

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.