



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2022-02077

**Keyword:** Crime/Incident Statistics Hate Crime and Equality

**Subject:** Hate Crime Statistics

### 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 (PSNI) does hold some information to which your request relates and this is being provided to you. We further consider some of the information you seek in the request is exempt by virtue of Section 21 of FOIA and have detailed our rationale as to why this exemption applies. We have also provided you with links to guidance issued by the Information Commissioner's Office which we have followed in responding to your request.

Please provide the following information in respect of every full year from January 1st 2018 onwards.

### Request 1

The total number of hate crimes recorded by the Constabulary, broken down by individual 'Hate' characteristics (e.g. Race, Disability etc.)

### Request 2

With respect to crimes that were so recorded due to the hate element being related to 'gender identity', 'gender reassignment' or 'transphobia' (or whichever similar term the Force may use) please provide a detailed breakdown of the specific crimes involved e.g. rape, murder, assault, harassment etc.)

### Answers 1 & 2

Your request for information has now been considered and the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) is not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states the fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The following exemption has been applied:

## Section 21 - Information Reasonably Accessible by Other Means

Financial year figures are published for each hate strand in our Trends in Hate Motivated Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland annual bulletin. The most recently published bulletin covers the period 2004/2005 – 2020/2021. Figures for 2021/2022 are available in the financial year bulletin.

The information you request is publically available on the PSNI website and for convenience I have provided the relevant link below:

<https://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/hate-motivation-statistics/>

A breakdown of crimes with a transphobic motivation is available in Table 7.2 of the Transphobic Motivations spreadsheet which accompanies the Trends in Hate Motivated Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland annual bulletin. This currently covers the period 2009/2010 – 2020/2021. The next annual trends bulletin, which will include figures for 2021/2022, will be published in November.

### Request 3

The total number of non-crime hate incidents recorded, similarly broken down as per question 1.

### Answer

Please see the information requested in the Excel spreadsheet.

Please note in conjunction with the information the following caveats:

(i) *The provided table is based on all incidents with a hate motivation which did not result in a recorded offence with a hate motivation (a Non-Crime Hate Incident), for each year 2018 - 2021.*

(ii) *A single incident may involve more than one hate strand. Therefore the figures below can't be added together to provide a total number of non-crime hate incidents.*

### Request 4

With respect to non-crime hate incidents that were so recorded due to the hate element being related to 'gender identity', 'gender reassignment' or 'transphobia' (or whichever similar term the Force may use) please provide a detailed breakdown of the specific type of incident involved.

### Answer

PSNI can advise there is no further breakdown of hate incidents other than the strand involved.

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.police.uk](mailto:foi@psni.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/](http://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.psnj.police.uk](http://www.psnj.police.uk)

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