



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2021-02330

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Crossbow 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. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

#### Request 1

How many Home Office Counting Rule (HOCR) non-notifiable reports has your force recorded in respect of breaches of the Crossbows Act 1987 in the last 4 years?

#### Answer

The Crossbows Act of 1987 does not apply to Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland falls under the Crossbows (Northern Ireland) Order 1988 of which there have been 4 offence codes identified however these may not be considered as 'breaches'.

#### Request 2

Which crimes under the Prevention of Crime Act 1953 and the Criminal Justice Act 1988 recorded by your force have involved the use of crossbows in the last 4 years?

#### Answer

The Prevention of Crime Act does not apply to Northern Ireland. A search of all crimes recorded between October 2017 and September 2021 where there was a weapon 'modus operandi' (MO) of a 'crossbow / arrow' linked to the occurrence did not identify any offences recorded under the Criminal Justice Act 1988.

There were three offences classified as 'Possession of other Weapons' where there was a linked weapon MO of 'Crossbow / arrow'; two of these offences were recorded under Article 22(1) of the Public Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 and one was recorded under Article 93 of the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

**Please note:** Under the Home Office Counting Rules, possession of an offensive weapon is only recorded where the weapon has not been used during the commission of another notifiable offence. In other words when the weapon is used during the commission of another notifiable offence (e.g. assault), then the other notifiable offence will be recorded and not the weapon possession.

### Request 3

Please provide details of any Violence Against the Person crimes recorded by your force where the use of a crossbow was a feature in the last 4 years.

### Answer

In response to your request, please see the table below.

The table below is based on incidents involving a weapon identified as a 'Crossbow' where one or more offences of violence against the person were recorded.

Weapon information is held at the incident level. Therefore we are unable to determine which offences within an incident, if any, involved a crossbow. Furthermore, where a crossbow was involved with a specific offence, we are unable to determine the extent to which it was involved.

	Oct-Dec 2017	2018	2019	2020	Jan-Sep 2021
Incidents involving a crossbow where an offence of violence against the person was recorded	0	4	3	3	2
Violence against the person	0	7	8	8	3
<i>Of which Violence with injury</i>	0	6	5	2	2
<i>Of which Violence without injury and Harassment</i>	0	1	3	6	1

**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.

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 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.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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