

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2020-02470

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Assaults on Police Officers

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

Please could you provide figures for the number of officers from your force who were assaulted while on duty on Christmas Day 2020 and for each assault, please could you give details of the nature of the assault and what kind of incident the officer had been attending at the time it happened.

Answer

There were 6 offences of 'assault without injury on a constable' recorded on 25th December 2020. These were based on 3 occurrences which resulted in one offence being recorded and 1 occurrence where three offences were recorded.

The initial call for service which resulted in police attendance at these occurrences consisted of one Anti-Social Behaviour, one Concern for Safety, one Hoax Calls and one Domestic.

Please note: Changes can be expected to figures from 1st April 2020 as records are subject to ongoing validation and quality assurance processes until publication in May 2021; annual revisions to previously published financial year figures may also be applied at this time.

Request 2

If possible, please could you provide the number of assaults against officers on duty on Christmas Day 2019 for context? No need for the background details on last year's figures.

By officer I mean public-facing police employees of any rank - PCSO, detective, constable, etc.

Answer

There were no recorded assaults on a constable (with or without injury) on 25th December 2019.

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.