



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: FOI-2021-02628

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Security Alerts 2021 - Present

Request and Answer:

Your requests for information have 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 requests relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Request 1

How many security alerts have there been in total across Northern Ireland since the start of 2021 to present?

Answer

The Statistics Department does not record statistics specifically on the number of 'security alerts', but does collate data on bombing incidents that are linked to the security situation and recorded hoax bomb related offences; these statistics are provided in response to requests 2 and 3.

Request 2

How many of those alerts were declared a hoax?

Answer

There were 98 bomb hoax related offences ⁽¹⁾ recorded by the PSNI between 1 January 2021 and 31 October 2021.

Request 3

How many of the alerts resulted in viable device/ devices being found?

Answer

There were 4 bombing incidents ⁽²⁾ related to the security situation recorded by the PSNI between 1 January 2021 and 31 October 2021.

(1) Bomb hoax related offences are a combination of the following two offences: "Placing or dispatching articles to cause a bomb hoax" and "Communicating false information alleging presence of a bomb".

(2) An individual bombing incident may involve one or more explosive devices. All devices were viable. Incidents recorded include explosions and defusings. Incidents involving petrol bombings or incendiaries are excluded.

(3) Figures are provisional and subject to change.

Request 4

How many security alerts occurred in County Londonderry since January 2021 to present?

Request 5

How many security alerts occurred in County Armagh since January 2021 to present?

Request 6

How many security alerts occurred in County Down since January 2021 to present?

Request 7

How many security alerts occurred in County Fermanagh since January 2021 to present?

Request 8

How many security alerts occurred in County Antrim since January 2021 to present?

Request 9

How many security alerts occurred in County Tyrone since January 2021 to present?

Answers 4-9

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) we can confirm that the PSNI does not hold information in relation to Requests 4-9. Enquiries made in relation to your request failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided. We can, however, offer refinement as outlined below.

Advice and Assistance

Under Section 16 of the FOIA PSNI will always try to assist you to refine your request and provide advice where we can. The information you have requested is not held for individual counties. As a refinement we could provide the statistics on security alerts for each policing district.

Submission of a refined request would be treated as a new request, and considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, including consideration of relevant Part II exemptions. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

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.psnipolice.uk

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