



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2022-02577

Keyword: Crime/Incident Statistics Offences against a person

Subject: SPOC for Stalking Allegations

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

Please confirm whether your force has a SPOC (Single Point of Contact) to deal with/advise on stalking allegations?

Request 2

If so, how long the SPOC has been in post (specifically the role of SPOC on stalking – not their wider job as a whole)

Request 3

The force's total number of SPOCs for stalking (if the number is greater than one)?

Answer to Requests 1 - 3

There are no designated SPOCs within the organisation to investigate stalking allegations.

Calls relating to incidents of Stalking are responded to and investigated by Local Policing Team Officers.

Request 4

From November 2012 – September 2022, how many stalking allegations did your force deal with? I would like this information broken down by calendar year?

Answer

Stalking Offences went live in Northern Ireland with the introduction in April 2022 of the Protection from Stalking Act (NI) 2022 – since this time there have been 54 allegations made.

Request 5

From November 2012 – September 2022, how many stalking allegations led to a successful conviction? I would like this information broken down by calendar year?

Answer

The new legislation has not been seen through the Criminal Justice Process as yet.

Request 6

From November 2012 – September 2022, how many stalking allegations were dropped before arrests or charges could be made? I would like this information broken down by calendar year?

Answer

This is not information that would be held because where an allegation is made it would be investigated even where there is no formal engagement from the injured party

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 Corporate Information Manager, Corporate Information Branch, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing foi@psni.police.uk.

If, following an Internal Review carried out by an independent decision maker, you remain unhappy about how your request has been handled you have the right to apply in writing to the Information Commissioner, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, at 'Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. There are a number of other platforms you can use to contact the ICO and these can be found on the ICO's website at the following link: [Make a complaint | ICO \(https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/\)](https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/).

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

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