



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2023-00685

Keyword: Crime/Incident Statistics Arrests/Detainees/Outcomes

Subject: Assaults Against 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. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Request 1

I am happy to proceed with this request using the assistance provided.

ie: answering all questions 1 to 5 and then Requests for 6 the overall total for the number of 'Acts that are Wrongful' claims registered and the number of cases settled regardless of the allegations in each of the years 2018 – 2022.

(Original request outlined below, FOI-2023-00435):

Over the past five years can the PSNI outline how many officers were subjected to assaults while in the line of duty?

Answer 1

See below table

Recorded Assault with and without injury on an Officer offences 2017/18 to 2021/22					
Offence Injury	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
8S Assault with inuury on a Constable	651	626	668	795	901
Serious	12	8	11	5	17
Minor	628	613	624	695	833
Threat	1	0	0	1	0
None	10	5	33	94	51
104 Assault without injury on an	2045	2084	2161	2224	2500

Officer					
Threat	38	34	14	9	18
None	2007	2050	2147	2215	2482

Request 2

For each year, is it possible to outline injuries sustained by officers?

Answer 2

Please see attached spreadsheet.

Request 3

Did said injuries result in any officers having to retire on medical grounds?

If so, how many and are there any specific reasons?

Answer 3

The Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB) determine whether an Officer should be ill health retired as a result of an Injury on Duty (IOD). This determination is not dependent on an e23/10 (accident/incident reporting form) being completed and submitted for their consideration.

Request 4

Over that five year period, how many times have PSNI officers had to discharge weapons?

Answer 4

Between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2022 police officers discharged their firearm on 2 occasions.

(1) Excludes negligent discharges and the humane destruction of animals.

Request 5

Can the different weapons used be mentioned and the number of times they were used?

Answer 5

On one occasion a Glock firearm was discharged and on the other occasion a Heckler and Koch G36 rifle was discharged.

Request 6

In terms of compensation, how much has been paid out to the public as a result of an alleged assault by an officer?

Answer 6

Please see below table.

Year	Amount of Compensation Paid
2018	241,533.50
2019	451,255.33
2020	298,693.83
2021	277,500.00
2022	3,212.940.00

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.