



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2023-00902

Keyword: Crime/Incident Statistics Hate Crime and Equality

Subject: Hate Crimes Based On Sexual Orientation

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

Re Hate Crimes based on the protected characteristic of sexual orientation. I would like to request the following for the years 2013 to 2023 or as many of those years as are available for the following: Hate crimes reported as being perceived to have been based on the protected characteristic of sexual orientation, specifically towards lesbians?

Request 2

Hate crimes reported as being perceived to have been based on the protected characteristic of sexual orientation, specifically towards gay men?

Request 3

Hate crimes reported as being perceived to have been based on the protected characteristic of sexual orientation, specifically towards bisexual men?

Request 4

Hate crimes reported as being perceived to have been based on the protected characteristic of sexual orientation, specifically towards bisexual women?

Request 5

Hate crimes reported as being perceived to have been based on the protected characteristic of gender reassignment.

Answer to Requests 1 - 5

For Requests 1-5, this information is not held in the format requested as the homophobic hate motivation is not further broken down by the sexual orientation that is perceived to have been targeted. Similarly, the transphobic motivation does not indicate whether the hate element was perceived due to gender reassignment. Therefore PSNI cannot provide a response to requests 1-5.

Advice and Assistance

A full time series of hate motivated incidents and crimes is available in our Annual Trends in Hate

Motivated Incidents and Crimes bulletin. Our quarterly hate crime update covers the period up to 31st December 2022. These are available on the PSNI website:

<https://www.psni.police.uk/about-us/our-publications-and-reports/official-statistics/hate-motivation-statistics>

Request 6

I would additionally like to know how many of these reports led to an arrest, and additionally how many led to a conviction.

Answer

Request 6 requires Requests 1-5 to have been answered, consequently we are unable to provide a response. Even if PSNI approached it on the basis of all homophobic and transphobic offences, we would be unable to link arrests with the specific recorded crime records. There is no specific offence code for a homophobic/transphobic hate crime so PSNI cannot search for these in the arrests data.

The Department of Justice hold data on prosecutions and convictions and are the most appropriate body to provide a response regarding convictions

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.