



Police Service of Northern Ireland

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: FOI/18355
Category: Organisational Information Performance Policies
Subject: PSNI practice around crimes

Request and Answer:

Request Information

Seeking to understand PSNI practice around crimes (eg arson, assaults, burglary, intimidation or other) committed against residents of Houses of Multiple Occupation, in light of the approach set out in the PSNI's [Here for You: public engagement vision](#) (in particular the commitment to "ensuring victims of crime are at the centre of local policing delivery" (p. 7)).

Request 1

Any guidance / guidelines around treatment of and support to victims of crimes committed at / against HMOs, who by definition will belong to several distinct households

Request 2

Any guidance / guidelines around issuance of crime reference numbers, given that in these circumstances one crime may result in victims from several distinct households

Request 3

Any guidance / guidelines around addressing situations in which one crime reference number has been issued to multiple victims resident at one HMO address, despite variation in the impact of the crime and the needs of each victim (including from services such as Victim Support)

Answer 1,2 & 3

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 (PSNI) does not hold information in relation to your requests. Enquiries made in relation to your requests failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your requests based on the information you have provided.

The PSNI does not hold specific guidance in respect of victim support of crimes committed at, or against, residents of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs). Information and guidance on support available to **all** victims of crime is available on the PSNI website at the following link: [Victim Support | Police Service of Northern Ireland](#)

Accordingly, we 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 at the e-mail address listed below. When contacting the Corporate Information Branch, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this letter.

If you are a member of the media or press, you may wish to direct your enquiry to our News and

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Media Desk via e-mail CorporateComms-PressOffice@psni.police.uk. Further information on this can be found at the following link <https://www.psni.police.uk/about-us/our-departments/strategic-communications-and-engagement>. Please note that enquiries submitted via this process will be handled separately at the Organisation's discretion, outside of the provisions of the FOIA, and there is no obligation to provide requested information through this route.

If you are dissatisfied with how your request was handled by the PSNI under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), or with the outcome of your request, you can submit a request for an internal review to be undertaken by an independent decision maker. In the event that you require a review, please outline the reason for your dissatisfaction, in writing, by emailing CorporatelnfoBranch@psni.police.uk. Alternatively, you can write to: Corporate Information Manager, Corporate Information Branch, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE.

Please submit your written request for review within 40 working days of receiving our initial response. Regrettably, and in line with the Information Commission's guidance, requests for review submitted after this timeframe will not be accepted. Further information can be found at the following link: <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/foi/freedom-of-information-and-environmental-information-regulations/request-handling-freedom-of-information/>

If, following receipt of the PSNI's internal review response, you remain dissatisfied with how your request has been handled you have the right, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to make a written complaint to the Information Commission via their website: [Make a complaint | ICO](https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/) (<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>). Alternatively, you can write to: 'Information Commission'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 their discretion.

Please be advised that PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website at the following link: [Freedom of Information | PSNI](#).

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