

16 September 2026

**REFERENCE: FOI\26\146**

Dear Madam

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 4 September 2026.

In your request you have advised you are trying to understand uptake of NI's compensation schemes. Specifically, you have requested

1. Figures for (a) applications to; (b) positive decisions / awards to the criminal damage compensation scheme in (i) 2025 and (ii) in 2026 to date, including (iii) how many of the latter related to the racist violence in June 2026.
2. The same information relative to the criminal injuries compensation scheme

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 gives you two rights of access when you write to us asking for information. You have the right to know whether we hold the information that you are looking for, and you have the right to have the information given to you. These rights may only be overridden if the information you are looking for is covered by an exemption in the Act.

Please see below responses to each of your questions:

1. Criminal Damage Compensation Scheme

| <b>Year</b>                                                  | <b>2025</b> | <b>2026 (to date)</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Applications to Criminal Damage Compensation Scheme</b>   | 224         | 340                   |
| <b>Awards made under Criminal Damage Compensation Scheme</b> | 21          | 46                    |

To date, there have been no awards made under the criminal damage compensation scheme, in respect of cases received as a result of the civil unrest of June 2026.

2. Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme

| <b>Year</b>                                                    | <b>2025</b>                                                                           | <b>2026 (to date)</b>                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Applications to Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme</b>   | 2002 - Criminal Injury Applications<br>613 – Applications for Criminal Injury Reviews | 1333 - Criminal Injury Applications<br>417 - Applications for Criminal Injury Reviews |
| <b>Awards made under Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme</b> | 1189                                                                                  | 713                                                                                   |

To date, there have been no awards made in respect of cases received as a result of the civil unrest of June 2026.

Please note, due to the complex nature of Criminal Injury and Criminal Damage cases, cases in which an award has been made will not necessarily have been received in the same calendar year. The figures for awards made in 2025 and 2026 will include cases that were received in previous calendar years.

If you are unhappy with the result of your request for information you may request an internal review within two calendar months of the date of this letter. If you request an internal review, please do so in writing stating the reasons to the address above.

If following an internal review, you were to remain dissatisfied you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner and ask him to investigate whether the DOJ has complied with the terms of the FOIA. You can write to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

The Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out.

Further details on the role of the Information Commissioner and the handling of appeals can be found at: [www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

**Records & Information Manager**

18 September 2026

**REFERENCE: FOI\26\138**

Dear Madam,

Thank you for your request for information dated 20 August 2026 and detailed below.

'We are trying to understand the forms of compensation available to victims of racist violence in 2026 and the mechanisms for accessing it.

Please provide:

1. Information on the **criminal damage compensation scheme**, including any measures to overcome barriers to access that have limited its utility for victims such as (a) the requirement that the damage have been caused by "an unlawful assembly of three or more people"; (b) limitations to the scheme's openness to tenants of private rental properties; and (c) the requirement that victims — many of whom are unaware of the scheme or how to access it -- "complete and send your notice of intention within 10 days of the damage being caused".
2. Information on the **criminal injuries compensation scheme**; its limitations; and any efforts made to make it accessible to victims of 2026 racist violence.
3. We are aware that in the wake of the 2024 racist violence, NI received part of a £15m fund from Westminster to support victims; please advise (a) whether such funding has been made available for 2026 victims from Westminster; (b) from Stormont; or (c) from any other source. If so, please advise of the scope of the funding and mechanisms for accessing it.
4. Information on any other support schemes available to victims of the racist violence in June 2026.

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 gives you two rights of access when you write to us asking for information. You have the right to know whether we hold recorded information falling in scope of your request, and you have the right to receive this recorded information subject to cost limit or exemption.

The information you have requested is provided below:

1. Please follow this link to access the Guide to the Criminal Damage scheme - [guide-to-criminal-damage-compensation-northern-ireland.pdf](#). Please be advised that the ten-day period is not an absolute bar and all Notice of Intentions will be considered on individual merits. This ten-day period for service of the Notice of Intention may also be extended by up to 12 months if a written request for an extension is made to DOJ Compensation Services within six months of the date of incident. It is important to note, that where these time-limits are exceeded DOJ Compensation Services does not have any authority to extend them however in accordance with Art 15 of the legislation Applicants who are dissatisfied with the decision of DOJ Compensation Services, have a right of appeal to the County Court. An appeal must be lodged within six weeks from the service of the decision of Compensation Services or the decision becomes final and binding.

2. Please follow this link to access the Guide to Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme 2009 - [Guide to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme 2009 | nidirect](#)

Please be advised that immediately following the civil unrest, Compensation Services liaised with local media, local groups and victims. As a result of this, staff delivered hard copy Application Forms and guides to local groups and the telephone business hours for Compensation Services were extended.

3. We are unaware of any such fund in the wake of the 2026 civil unrest.

4. Please see below information regarding support schemes.

#### **Hate Incident Practical Action Scheme(HIPA)**

HIPA is funded by the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Department for Communities (DfC), the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE).

This scheme, in particular circumstances, can provide personal and home protection

measures if your home has been damaged or you have been the victim of an incident or crime at home because of your race, sexual orientation, disability, gender identity, political opinion or religious belief. It is available to owner-occupiers and tenants in privately rented, Housing Executive and Housing Association properties. The scheme is available 24 hours each day to provide support and reassurance to victims of hate incidents.

All hate incidents should be reported to the PSNI as soon as is practicable following occurrence. When a hate incident is reported to the PSNI, they will arrange for an assessment of the affected property to be carried out by a Crime Prevention Officer (CPO), who will consider what protection measures are available and appropriate under the HIPA Scheme. You can report an incident by calling 999, 101 or online at <https://www.psnipolice.uk/>.

All hate incidents must be reported to the police to be eligible for support. When an incident is confirmed by the police, minimum repairs may be carried out to secure the property and, if requested, there will be a follow up visit by your local police officer or Crime Prevention Officer who can recommend work to be carried out by the Housing Executive to repair the property and improve existing security.

Further information, including contact details for support services can be found on the PSNI website: [Hate Incident Practical Action Scheme \(HIPA\) Leaflet Trifold \(psnipolice.uk\)](https://www.psnipolice.uk/).

### **Hate Crime Advocacy Service (HCAS)**

HCAS is jointly funded by DOJ and PSNI to assist reporting of hate incidents to the police and provide support to victims throughout the investigative / criminal justice system process. HCAS is delivered through an independent partnership coordinated by Victim Support NI and includes Hate Crime Advocates that are employed by the Migrant Centre NI, Disability Action and The Rainbow Project – which provide advocacy services to victims of hate and signal crimes across NI. The advocates can provide victims of hate crime with access to specialist support which is tailored to their needs. Information and guidance is available through this service to help victims make decisions and choices to increase their safety and well-being.

Referrals to HCAS can be made in person, on behalf of someone else or by PSNI. HCAS encourage reporting hate crimes and incidents to police, however, you do not have to officially report a crime to avail the services.

Support is provided to victims to assist in the reporting of incidents to the police; provide support throughout the investigative/criminal justice system process; promote positive strategies to help victims cope with the impact of crime; and signpost them to other services such as housing issues, and health and psychological support. Further information can be found at: <https://hcasni.com/>.

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Yours sincerely

**Records & Information Manager**