

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE



Department of
Justice
www.dojni.gov.uk

Minister's Office
Block B, Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Ballymiscaw
Belfast
BT4 3SG
Tel: 028 90528121
Fax: 028 90528434
Teletext: 028 90527668
private.office@dojni.x.gsi.gov.uk

Your ref:
Our ref: SUB/1225/2010

Mr K Robinson MLA
Northern Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont
BELFAST
BT4 3XX

23 December 2010

Den Ken

I have recently answered three Assembly questions you asked concerning incidents of disorder, etc, linked to sporting events. For convenience I attach a copy of these, and the answers I have given.

I have now received additional information from the police in relation to incidents around the Northern Ireland vs Poland international football match which took place in March 2009 – the subject of one of your questions.

Prior to the match a number of incidents of public disorder involving both Poland and Northern Ireland supporters occurred. These mainly concentrated in the following areas:

- Wetherspoons, Bedford Street
- Lisburn Road (outside Ryan's Bar/Hill's Bar)

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE



Department of
Justice
www.dojni.gov.uk

· Tate's Avenue.

During the match the following incidents were reported:

- Polish fans lit flares and fireworks (thrown at police)
- disorder broke out in the South Stand
- Eirigi flags/banners were displayed within the South Stand by Polish fans
- an assistant referee was struck by a coin thrown from within the Northern Ireland supporters' area of the crowd.

After the match police came under a sustained attack and nine arrests were made for a range of offences including public order offences.

Six people have since been charged and dealt with at court, with prosecutions pending for a further six people.

I hope that you find this information helpful.

I am having this letter copied to the Assembly library, and to the Justice and CAL Committees, who asked to be informed about such incidents.

Yours

DAVID FORD MLA
Minister of Justice

AQWs 2703/11
2704/11
2707/11

Ken Robinson (East Antrim) has asked:

To ask the Minister of Justice to detail (i) the number of arrests made by the PSNI for offences committed within a sports stadium in each of the past three years; (ii) the number of these arrests which resulted in a conviction; and (iii) the sentences that resulted from these convictions.

To ask the Minister of Justice whether his Department holds any information on any person, currently living in Northern Ireland but originally from outside the UK, who has been convicted, in another part of the European Union, of an offence related to sport.

To ask the Minister of Justice how many people have been convicted of offences committed (i) before; (ii) during; and (iii) after the Northern Ireland vs Poland football international on 28 March 2009; and to outline the sentences handed down as a result of these convictions.

ANSWER

The information requested is not available in the format requested, however the following table details incidents at and related to sporting events in recent years.

Sports incidents

Football

DATE	LOCATION	INCIDENT	TYPE OF OFFENCE
06/11/2010	Coleraine Showgrounds (Coleraine v Cliftonville)	Cliftonville supporters causing disturbance in local bar. PSNI officers attacked. After match stones thrown at police car and Cliftonville supporters bus.	5 arrests public order and assault on police.
16/10/2010	Solitude (Cliftonville v Glentoran)	Alcohol removed from Glentoran supporters as they arrived on bus.	Alcohol on buses
09/10/2010	Coleraine Showgrounds (Coleraine v Linfield)	Male shouting obscenities at Linfield team bus following game.	Chanting abuse
25/9/2010	Coleraine Showgrounds (Coleraine v Ballymena)	Youths ('Coleraine casuals') gathered after second half of match. Banger thrown at police car. Youths continued to cause annoyance, throwing bangers at each other and passers by.	
28/08/2010	Donegal Celtic Suffolk Road (Donegal Celtic v Glentoran)	Glentoran supporters entered sterile zone, failed to leave when requested.	Pitch incursion

May 2010	Windsor Park	Sectarian chanting at Irish Cup Final	Chanting abuse
31/10/2010	Donegal Celtic Suffolk Road (Donegal Celtic v Cliftonville)	Altercation between a DC supporter and a Cliftonville supporter	
15/09/2010	Strangmore Park, Dungannon FC	Racial abuse towards Dungannon FC player	Chanting abuse
15/08/2009	Shamrock Park, Portadown FC (Portadown v Glentoran)	Supporter ran onto pitch and attacked Glentoran player.	Pitch incursion
28/03/2009	Windsor Park (NI v Poland)	Violence inside and outside ground before, during and after match. Assistant referee struck by coin. Fans attack police with fireworks	Fireworks
13/01/2009	Windsor Park (Linfield v Cliftonville)	Cliftonville official hit by plastic bottle	Missiles
26/12/2008	Windsor Park (Linfield v Glentoran)	Trouble causing play to be suspended	
04/11/2008	Windsor Park	Linfield players hit by a firework	Fireworks
Oct 2008	The Brandywell (Derry City FC)	Sectarian language towards stewards	Chanting/abuse
22/03/2008	Ballymena Showgrounds (Ballymena v Lisburn Distillery)	Missiles thrown onto pitch during match	Missiles
Oct 2007	Windsor Park	Baseball thrown onto pitch and flag burned in the wooden stand	Missile

11/08/2007	Ballymena Showgrounds (Ballymena v Linfield)	Sectarian chanting	Chanting/abuse
May 2006	Mourneview Park, Glenavon FC	Crowd trouble after Irish Cup semi final	
23/04/05	The Oval, (Linfield v Glentoran)	Major trouble at match. Hundreds of fans on pitch fighting and throwing missiles	Pitch incursion, missiles
22/02/2005	Brandywell, Derry City FC	Buses attacked as they leave the Brandywell	
02/05/2004	Windsor Park	2 men stabbed at Irish Cup Final	
May 1998	Windsor Park	Crowd trouble at end of Irish Cup Final. Stewards attacked.	

Gaelic Athletic Association

18/10/2009	Healy Park, Omagh	Referee assaulted at Tyrone County Football Final	Pitch incursion
23/03/2008	Edendork GAC, Tyrone	Crowd congestion causes match to be delayed	
20/11/2004	Casement Park	Referee attacked at Ulster Cup semi final	Pitch incursion