



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2008-04740

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: LAPTOPS

Request:

Could you please supply me with the following information for the calendar year 2007? If you are unable to provide exact details estimates will suffice

Question 1- The total number of laptop computers reported lost or stolen.

Question 2 - The total number of lost or stolen laptops either handed in to the police by members of the public or recovered by the police as part of investigations, pro - active policing etc.

Question 3 - The total number of laptops returned to their lawful owners.

Question 4 - The cost in either time or financial of ascertaining who the rightful owners were.

Answer:

Answer 1 - There were 853-recorded crimes of burglary, robbery or theft where a laptop is recorded as being property stolen in the 2007 calendar year. This figure is provisional and subject to change.

Answers 2 - 4 To answer questions 2, 3 and 4 would necessitate a manual search of the Lost Property Registers, Found Property Registers and the Special Property Registers in each of the eight Districts. In one district there is a total of six registers. To check all the registers and to retrieve the information you have requested would greatly exceed the "appropriate limit" as stated in the Freedom of Information Regulations 2004, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland have also considered whether we can be of any assistance in terms of helping you refine questions 2,3 and 4 to bring them under the cost limit however the nature and structure of the information unfortunately makes this impossible.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice in relation to questions 2,3 and 4 and the request has therefore been closed.

If you have any queries regarding your request or this decision please do not hesitate to contact me on 028 9070 0164. When contacting the Freedom of Information Team, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this email.

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 Head of Freedom of Information, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing foi@psni.pnn.police.uk

If following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision maker, you were to remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request you may make a complaint, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the PSNI has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. You can write to the Information Commissioner at Information Commissioner'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 his discretion.

Please be advised that PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ <http://www.psni.police.uk/>

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