



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2009-01978

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** BURGLARIES - SOUTH BELFAST - JAN / MARCH 2009

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

Police recorded 410 burglaries in South Belfast in the first three months of 2009- 116 in January, 131 in February and 163 in March. But how many people were subsequently arrested for burglary in each of the three months and how many people were subsequently charged in relation to the offences in each of the three months and what exactly were each of the people charged with? How many of the burglaries in South Belfast in that three-month period were carried out by the same person and have they been charged and what with?

Can I also have the exact same information, broken down by month, for North, West and East Belfast?

#### Answer

**BELE:** 36 arrests in total (28 charged/reported for burglary)

**BELN:** 44 arrests in total (31 charged/reported for burglary)

**BELS:** 76 arrests in total (53 charged/reported for burglary)

**BELW:** 41 arrests in total (37 charged/reported for burglary)

With regard to your part of this question which asks about burglaries carried out by the same person and the breakdown of arrested/charged for each month I have been advised that to provide a response to these parts of your question, would take in excess of the appropriate limit as outlined in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004 which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450 (18) hrs. To retrieve and summarise this specific information it would be necessary to have a script written to enable the extraction of the information. An estimate by PSNI technical staff has set this at over 11 hours and this added together with the information supplied in Questions 1 to 3 which took 13 hours would take the total to approximately 24hrs, therefore exceeding the "appropriate limit" of 18hrs. We have provided what we are able to provide within the limit and this answer also refers to questions 2 and 3 below.

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

#### Question 2

Also, how many people were arrested for burglary in South Belfast from January 12-March 31 2009 inclusive, broken down by month, and how many were subsequently charged, broken down by month, and what with? How many of the offences were committed by the same person?

Can I have the same specific time period stats for North, East and West Belfast?

**Answer**

**BELE:** 31 arrests in total (28 charged/reported for burglary)

**BELN:** 41 arrests in total (29 charged/reported for burglary)

**BELS:** 67 arrests in total (46 charged/reported for burglary)

**BELW:** 39 arrests in total (35 charged/reported for burglary)

**Question 3**

I would like the exact same information as in question two for the time period starting July 17-August 31 2008 inclusive. And again I would like the same stats for North, East and West Belfast.

**Answer**

**BELE:** 8 arrests in total (3 charged/reported for burglary)

**BELN:** 30 arrests in total (21 charged/reported for burglary)

**BELS:** 48 arrests in total (34 charged/reported for burglary)

**BELW:** 18 arrests in total (12 charged/reported for burglary)

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 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](mailto: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.