



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-03635

Keyword: Crime

Subject: CRIMINAL DAMAGE INCIDENTS

Request and Answer:

Question 1

The total number of criminal damage incidents recorded as a crime?

Question 2

The total number of criminal damage incident 'detections' recorded?

Answer

The PSNI has decided to exempt the information requested under Section 21 – Information Reasonably Accessible by Other Means. The information requested can be obtained from the PSNI web site using the attached link:-

http://www.psnipolice.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics/update_crime_statistics.htm

The link contains detailed crime statistics by police district and police area.

Question 3

The total number of criminal damage incidents recorded as a 'crime' that wholly or partly involved "graffiti" as an element of the offence (e.g. spray paint/pen/scratching in glass, etc.)?

Question 4

The total number of criminal damage incidents detections recorded that wholly or partly involved graffiti as an element of the offence?

Question 5

The total number of individuals issued with 'reprimands' for criminal damage incidents that wholly or partly involved graffiti as an element of the offence(s)?

Question 6

The total number of individuals issued with final warnings for criminal damage incidents that wholly or partly involved graffiti as an element of the offence(s)?

Question 7

The total number of individuals arrested for criminal damage/suspected criminal damage where the incident wholly or partly involved graffiti as an element of the offence/suspected offence? [Please note that I am seeking the raw count of the number arrested and I am not concerned with the subsequent action that may have followed, for example whether the person was de-arrested, bailed, charged, etc.].

Question 8

The total number of individuals for which charges were issued (i.e. where information were laid by the CPS) for criminal damage incidents that wholly or partly involved graffiti as an element of the offence?

Question 9

The percentage success rate (i.e. where a defendant was found guilty) in relation to the charges laid (identified previously in question 8)?

Answer

The cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the "appropriate limit" as stated in the Freedom of Information Regulations 2004, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450 (18 hours).

These questions relate specifically to graffiti related criminal damage offences which the Police Service of Northern Ireland's Central Statistics Unit cannot automatically identify from their systems. To identify such offences would require extensive manual trawls - accessing and reading each occurrence which for the requested time period would be approximately 75,000 incidents. Allowing an estimated 5 minutes to check each incident, this would equate to some 6,250 hours to locate and retrieve the information you require.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice and the request has therefore been closed.

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

Question 10

If known, the number of referrals received by the Force from 'Crimestoppers' which wholly or partly related to graffiti?

Question 11

If known, the percentage of referrals from Crimestoppers (identified in question 9) that resulted in a criminal or civil sanction or that were otherwise recorded as an offender brought to justice?

Answer

The Police Service of Northern Ireland Crimestoppers Co-ordinators received one call in 2008 which related to graffiti. This call did not result in a prosecution.

Question 12

The total number of Penalty Notices for Disorder that were issued that wholly or partly involved graffiti as an element of the offence(s)?

Answer

The legislation covering Fixed Penalty Notices and Penalty Notices for Disorder is not applicable to Northern Ireland. Fixed Penalties are issued by the Police Service of Northern Ireland only for traffic offences and some parking offences.

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 letter.

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 @ www.psnj.police.uk

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