



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2010-00676

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Crime Committed in South Belfast

### Request and Answer:

I am writing to confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has now completed its search for the information.

#### Question 1

How many house robberies, including break-in's where items have not been stolen, have been reported in Stranmillis, South Belfast in the years 2005, 06, 07, 08, 09 and 2010 (so far)?

#### Question 2

How many robberies in Stranmillis, South Belfast have been followed up with (a) arrests, (b) charges and (c) convictions in the years 2005, 06, 07, 08, 09 and 2010 (so far)?

#### Question 3

How many cars have been (a) stolen and (b) broken into in the Stranmillis area of South Belfast in the years 2005, 06, 07, 08, 09 and 2010 (so far)?

#### Question 4

How many car thefts and break-in's have been followed with (a) arrests, (b) charges and (c) convictions in the years 2005, 06, 07, 08, 09 and 2010 (so far)?

### Answer

The information requested in your questions is not held centrally within the PSNI and in order to provide a response I firstly contacted the PSNI Central Statistics Unit.

Central Statistics have provided a response to questions 1 and 3 in the tables below which illustrate the number of domestic burglaries, personal robberies in a dwelling where no property has been stolen and the number of attempted theft and theft from motor vehicle offences in Stranmillis Ward area for each year until 28th February 2010. For your information they have also provided the number of these offences that have been cleared by means of Charge/Summons.

Information on individual arrests, charges and convictions, as requested in questions 2 and 4, as a result of the offences described cannot be provided by Central Statistics and I contacted Information and Communication Services (ICS) department who looks after our crime recording systems.

Unfortunately I have been advised that the statistics provided in respect of crimes has been obtained by using external software involving wards and because this is not used for crime recording our crime recording systems are unable to break the requested data down to the level of Stranmillis as the information they hold is at sector level for districts and the area that encompasses Stranmillis would be the Donegall Pass sector of B District.

As part of our Section 16 duty to advise and assist the requester I have been advised that ICS may be able to supply the number of arrests and charges specific to the offence of robbery in Donegall Pass area and the number of arrests and charges made for car theft in Donegall Pass area from 2006. Should you wish to receive this information it will be treated as a new request and will be subject to exemptions, if applicable.

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 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](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 @ [www.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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

### Recorded and cleared house robbery<sup>1</sup> offences and vehicle crime in the Stranmillis<sup>2</sup> ward area

	House robbery <sup>1</sup> offences			Vehicle crime				
	Recorded	Of those recorded the total number since cleared	Of those recorded the number since cleared by means of charge/summons	Recorded			Of those recorded the total number since cleared	Of those recorded the number since cleared by means of charge/summons
				Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicles	Theft from motor vehicles	Total		
2005	53	8	6	26	65	91	5	3
2006	66	11	7	22	46	68	1	0
2007	62	6	6	19	23	42	2	2
2008	75	6	5	34	31	65	2	2
2009	65	8	8	10	45	55	2	2
1 <sup>st</sup> Jan – 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2010	13	0	0	3	4	7	1	1

Source: Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

<sup>1</sup> House robbery offences include domestic burglaries and personal robbery offences where locational information indicates the occurrence to have taken place at a dwelling.

<sup>2</sup> At the end of each financial year, quality processing work is carried out to improve the quality address coverage. From 2005 to 2008, ward information is available for 99.8% to 99.9% of all recorded offences in South Belfast. From 2009 onwards, ward information is available for 95.6% of all recorded offences in South Belfast.

**Please Note:**

Figures from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 are provisional and will be subject to change.