



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2010-03489

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Shoplifting and Petrol Station Offences

### Request and Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested. The decision has been taken to disclose the **located** information to you in full.

### Question 1

Please can I make a Freedom of Information request to receive the following information:

How many reports of shoplifting did you receive in your area during 2005?

### Answer

In Northern Ireland during 2005 there were:

5512 recorded shoplifting offences;

### Question 2

How many people were convicted of shoplifting in your area during 2005?

### Answer

The PSNI can also provide the number of detected offences of these types in 2005 but cannot provide any information on number of convictions

2930 **detected** shoplifting offences.

### Question 3

How many reports of petrol stations drive-offs did you receive in your area during 2005?

### Answer

1642 recorded making off without payment offences where MO information indicates the offences to have occurred at a petrol station.

### Question 4

How many people were convicted of petrol station drive-offs in your area during 2005?

## **Answer**

303 **detected** making off without payment offences where MO information indicates the offences to have occurred at a petrol station.

Detections are, broadly speaking, those crimes that have been 'cleared up' by the police. Crimes are counted as 'detected' in accordance with strict counting rules issued by the Home Office. They are counted on the basis of crimes rather than offenders. For example, if six offenders are involved in a robbery and are all arrested and charged, then this counts as one detection. Alternatively if only one of the six is identified and charged while the other five remain unidentified and go free, this also counts as one detection. In this respect detection data differs from conviction data as conviction data counts offenders while detection data counts crimes.

The following methods of detections involve a formal sanction:

Charging or issuing a summons to an offender;

Issuing a caution to the offender;

Having the offence accepted for consideration in court;

The offender is a juvenile who is dealt with by means of an informed warning or restorative caution.

Offences not involving a formal sanction but still regarded as 'cleared up' are those where the police take no further action for the following reasons:

Offender, victim or essential witness is dead or too ill;

Victim refuses or is unable to give evidence;

Offender is under the age of criminal responsibility;

Police or PPS decides that no useful purpose would be served by proceeding;

Time limit of six months for commencing prosecution has been exceeded.

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.