



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2010-01706

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Theft of Volkswagen Cars in 2007

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

How many Volkswagen cars were stolen in Northern Ireland in 2007?

#### Question 2

How many Volkswagen cars were stolen without stealing the keys first in 2007?

#### Question 3

Around 2007 there was a gang operating, stealing Volkswagen cars around Newry and Mourne area and the Newcastle area. Can the PSNI confirm that this was the case?

### Answer

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide information (because the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit) to provide you the applicant with a notice which states that fact.

This information is not held in an easily retrievable format. To ascertain the number of Volkswagen cars which were stolen without the keys being stolen first would require a manual trawl of our ICIS and Niche systems and would take approximately 5 minutes per incident giving a total of 22.5 hours.

It is estimated that the cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the "appropriate costs limit" under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450 (18 Hours).

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.

Although excess cost removes the PSNI's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, I can inform you that there was a total of 272 Volkswagen cars stolen during 2007. This information was retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

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

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](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.