



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-01299

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Arson 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.

The PSNI are unable to differentiate between gorse fires or any other fire from their recording systems and therefore are unable to provide specific information in relation to gorse fires. You confirmed previously that you were content to receive the requested information in relation to arson.

The following information relates to arson offences only.

Question 1

How many arson offences from January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010?

Answer

There were 1920 arson offences recorded by the PSNI from January 1 2010 to December 31 2010.

Question 2

How many people were arrested during that time?

Answer

196 people were arrested for arson offences.

Question 3

How many people under 16 were arrested during that time?

Answer

19 people under 16 were arrested for arson offences.

Question 4

How many people aged ten and under were arrested during that time?

Answer

Children known to be under 10 years of age cannot be arrested for a criminal offence as they are under the age of Criminal Responsibility.

0 arrested for arson offences.

Question 5

Please state age of youngest during that time?

Answer

11 years old.

Question 6

How many arson offences from January 1, 2011 to May 4, 2011?

Answer

There were 537 arson offences recorded by the PSNI from January 1 2011 to May 4, 2011.

Please Note: This figure includes information from the current financial year and will be subject to change.

Question 7

How many people were arrested during that time?

Answer

75 people were arrested for arson offences.

Question 8

How many of those arrested were under 16 during that time?

Answer

15 people were arrested for arson offences.

Question 9

How many of those arrested were aged ten and under during that time?

Answer

Children known to be under 10 years of age cannot be arrested for a criminal offence as they are under the age of Criminal Responsibility.

0 arrested for arson offences.

Question 10

Please state age of youngest arrested during that time?

Answer

12 years old.

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.

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

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