



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-00960
Keyword: Crime
Subject: Crimes in West Belfast

Request and Answer:

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

I have today decided to:

- disclose information in response to question 3 in full; and
- fully exempt information in response to questions 1 and 2 pursuant to the provisions of Section 21 of the Act.

Question 1

How many crimes were reported in west Belfast between April 2009 and April 2010?

Question 2

How many crimes were reported in west Belfast between April 2010 and present?

Answer

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states that fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

The following exemption has been applied:

Section 21 - Information Reasonably Accessible by Other Means

I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested as the information you request may be located on the Police Service of Northern Ireland's website.

The answer to question 1 can be found by clicking on the following link which details Recorded Crime and Clearances in Financial year 2009/2010. Crimes recorded in West Belfast are detailed in Table 1.4 of this document. <http://www.psni.police.uk/1.08.09.recorded.crime.pdf>

The answer to question 2 can be found by clicking on the following link to the 2010/2011 Crime Statistics Monthly Update by Area and District.
http://www.psni.police.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics/update_crime_statistics.htm

Question 3

How many crimes were reported each month between April 2010 and present?

Answer

Please see the attached table provided by the Central Statistics Unit which details recorded offences reported in West Belfast policing area by month from April 2010 until February 2011. Figures after this date have not yet been collated.

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.

Recorded offences reported in West Belfast policing area by month

	Recorded
Apr 2010	525
May 2010	507
Jun 2010	453
Jul 2010	502
Aug 2010	510
Sep 2010	433
Oct 2010	497
Nov 2010	476
Dec 2010	318
Jan 2011	362
Feb 2011	431
Total	5014

Source: Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

Please Note: these figures are provisional and will be subject to change