



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-00176

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Number of Dog Thefts For Each of the Past Five Years

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.

Question 1

The number of dog thefts in your operational area for each of the past five years, i.e. 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010.

Question 2

The number of successful convictions for dog thefts in your operational area for each of the past five years, i.e. 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010.

Question 3

A breakdown of the breeds of dogs stolen in your operational area for each of the past five years, i.e. 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010.

Answer

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

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.

The information requested is recorded on the PSNI Niche System. This system cannot be interrogated to such a level that would enable the breeds of dogs and conviction data to be provided for these offences. For this reason each of these occurrences would have to be manually trawled to check if the breed of dog was noted and if there were any case files on them in order to complete further checks for conviction details. Niche has approximately 276 incidents where the property stolen includes a dog. It has been estimated to manually check the data would take 5 – 10 minutes per incident which would equate to 23 – 46 hours. This therefore greatly exceeds the appropriate cost limit.

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.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland have also considered whether we can be of any assistance in terms of helping you refine your request to bring it under the cost limit. It may be possible for this information to be provided for just 1 or 2 years.

You may wish to submit a refined request in order that the cost of complying with your request may be facilitated within the 'appropriate limit'. Submission of a refined request would be treated as a new request, and considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, including consideration of relevant Part II exemptions.

Although excess cost removes the service's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this will be helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

Please see recorded figures for the number of dog thefts per year:

2006: No records held for 2006
2007: 48 (records held only from September 2007)
2008: 60
2009: 72
2010: 89

See table below in relation to the breeds of dogs stolen by year. As per explanation above this will not be an exhaustive list as a manual check of all incidents would need to be undertaken in order to provide a complete list.

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.

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.

| Breed of Dog | Year |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Akita | 2007 |
| Bichon Freece | 2007 |
| Black Labrador | 2007 |
| Border Collie Pup | 2007 |
| Boxer | 2007 |
| Bull Terrier pup | 2007 |
| Chi Hua Hua | 2007 |
| German Shepherd | 2007 |
| Golden Retriever Pup | 2007 |
| Japanese Akita | 2007 |
| Japanese Akita Pup | 2007 |
| Labrador | 2007 |
| Mastiff/Staffordshire Cross | 2007 |
| Miniature Pomeranian | 2007 |
| Miniature Yorkshire Terrier | 2007 |
| Mongrel | 2007 |
| Pedigree Siberian | 2007 |
| Pit Bull | 2007 |
| Pomeranian | 2007 |
| Prince | 2007 |
| Rottweiler | 2007 |
| Rottweiler Pup | 2007 |
| Schnauzer | 2007 |
| Shih Tzu Pup | 2007 |
| Short Haired Terrier | 2007 |
| Siberian Husky | 2007 |
| Staffordshire Bull Terrier | 2007 |
| Terrier | 2007 |
| Terrier Cross Pup | 2007 |
| Westland Terrier | 2007 |
| Whippet | 2007 |
| Yorkshire Terrier Pup | 2007 |

| Breed of Dog | Year |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Akita | 2008 |
| American Bulldog Pup | 2008 |
| Boxer | 2008 |
| British Bulldog | 2008 |
| Brown Labrador | 2008 |
| Bull Terrier | 2008 |
| Cavalier King Charles Pup | 2008 |
| Collie | 2008 |
| Collie/Labrador Cross | 2008 |
| Dogue De Bordeaux | 2008 |
| Dogue De Bordeaux Pup | 2008 |
| English Bull Terrier | 2008 |
| Greyhound | 2008 |
| Jack Russell | 2008 |
| Japanese Akida | 2008 |
| Labrador | 2008 |
| Leopard Bull Staff Terrier | 2008 |
| Lurcher | 2008 |
| Pomeranian | 2008 |
| Pompo Pup | 2008 |
| Pug | 2008 |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| Rottweiler | 2008 |
| Shih Tzu | 2008 |
| Staffordshire Bull Terrier | 2008 |
| Staffordshire Bull Terrier Pup | 2008 |
| Staffordshire Miniature Bull Terrier | 2008 |
| Staffordshire Terrier | 2008 |
| Yorkshire Terrier | 2008 |

| Breed of Dog | Year |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Alsatian Pup | 2009 |
| Bichon Frise | 2009 |
| Black Labrador | 2009 |
| Border Collie | 2009 |
| Boxer | 2009 |
| British Bull Dog | 2009 |
| Cavalier King Charles | 2009 |
| Chi Hua Hua | 2009 |
| Chocolate Brown Labrador Pup | 2009 |
| Dachshund | 2009 |
| English Bull Terrier | 2009 |
| French Bull Dog | 2009 |
| German Pointer | 2009 |
| German Shepherd | 2009 |
| Golden Labrador | 2009 |
| Greyhound | 2009 |
| Jack Russell | 2009 |
| Japanese Akita | 2009 |
| King Charles Cavalier | 2009 |
| King Charles Spaniel | 2009 |
| Laso Apso | 2009 |
| Lurcher | 2009 |
| Miniature Dachshund | 2009 |
| Miniature Schnauzer | 2009 |
| Old English Sheepdog | 2009 |
| Pomeranian | 2009 |
| Pug | 2009 |
| Rottweiler | 2009 |
| Rottweiler Pup | 2009 |
| Rottweiler/Labrador Cross | 2009 |
| Samari Husky | 2009 |
| Schnauzer | 2009 |
| Sheep Dog | 2009 |
| Shih Tzu | 2009 |
| Siberian Husky | 2009 |
| Siberian Husky Pup | 2009 |
| Springer Spaniel | 2009 |
| Springer Spaniel Pup | 2009 |
| Terrier | 2009 |
| West Highland | 2009 |
| White Boxer | 2009 |
| Yorkshire Terrier | 2009 |

| Breed of Dog | Year |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Alsatian | 2010 |
| American Bulldog | 2010 |
| Basset Hound | 2010 |

| | |
|----------------------------------|------|
| Beagle | 2010 |
| Beagle Cross Breed | 2010 |
| Bichon Frise | 2010 |
| Bichon Frise Pup | 2010 |
| Black Cocker Spaniel Pup | 2010 |
| Black Staffordshire Bull Terrier | 2010 |
| Border Collie | 2010 |
| Border Terrier | 2010 |
| Boxer | 2010 |
| Brindle Staffordshire Pup | 2010 |
| Bull Mastiff | 2010 |
| Bull Mastiff Mix | 2010 |
| Bulldog | 2010 |
| Chi Hua Hua | 2010 |
| Chocolate Brown Labrador | 2010 |
| Collie Mongrel | 2010 |
| Collie Sheep Dog Pup | 2010 |
| Dachshund | 2010 |
| Dogue Bordeaux | 2010 |
| English Bull Terrier | 2010 |
| German Shepherd | 2010 |
| Greyhound | 2010 |
| Husky | 2010 |
| Jack Russell | 2010 |
| Jack Russell Pup | 2010 |
| Japanese Ikita | 2010 |
| Johnston Bull Mastiff Pup | 2010 |
| Labrador | 2010 |
| Labrador Pup | 2010 |
| Lhasa Apso | 2010 |
| Lurcher | 2010 |
| Miniature Yorkshire Terrier | 2010 |
| Mongrel | 2010 |
| Newfoundland Lanseer | 2010 |
| Pomeranian | 2010 |
| Racing Greyhound | 2010 |
| Red Setter | 2010 |
| Rottweiler | 2010 |
| Rottweiler Pup | 2010 |
| Siberian Husky | 2010 |
| St Bernard Pup | 2010 |
| Staffordshire Bull Terrier | 2010 |
| Terrier | 2010 |
| Terrier Cross Breed | 2010 |
| Terrier Fox | 2010 |
| West Highland | 2010 |
| West Highland Terrier | 2010 |
| White Boxer | 2010 |
| White Samoyed Husky Dog | 2010 |
| White Staffie Cross Pup | 2010 |
| Yorkshire Terrier | 2010 |
| Yorkshire Terrier | 2010 |