



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](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.

<b>Breed of Dog</b>	<b>Year</b>
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

<b>Breed of Dog</b>	<b>Year</b>
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

<b>Breed of Dog</b>	<b>Year</b>
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

<b>Breed of Dog</b>	<b>Year</b>
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