



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-02319

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Lead Thefts

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.

Question 1

How many thefts of lead were reported to police in Northern Ireland between April 2010 and March 2011?

Answer

From 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011 there were 158 burglary, robbery or theft offences recorded by the PSNI where the stolen property includes Lead.

Question 2

Please provide a breakdown of where these thefts took place by city or town.

Answer

Please see the table provided below:

| Town | Number of recorded offences | Town | Number of recorded offences |
|---------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Antrim | 15 | Holywood | 1 |
| Aughnacloy | 2 | Killinchy | 1 |
| Ballyclare | 3 | Larne | 12 |
| Ballymena | 2 | Lisburn | 3 |
| Ballynahinch | 1 | Londonderry | 1 |
| Bangor | 8 | Loughbrickland | 2 |
| Belfast | 26 | Lurgan | 1 |
| Carnlough | 1 | Magherafelt | 1 |
| Carrickfergus | 5 | Markethill | 1 |
| Coleraine | 5 | Moy | 1 |
| Craigavon | 2 | Newry | 8 |
| Crumlin | 7 | Newtownabbey | 19 |
| Downpatrick | 2 | Newtownards | 5 |
| Dromara | 1 | Portadown | 1 |
| Dromore | 1 | Rathfriland | 1 |
| Dunamanagh | 2 | Strabane | 1 |
| Dungannon | 5 | Templepatrick | 1 |
| Dunmurry | 1 | Upperlands | 1 |
| Enniskillen | 3 | Warrenpoint | 2 |
| Glengormley | 2 | Whitehead | 1 |
| | | Total | 158 |

Source: Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

Question 3

Please provide a breakdown of where the lead was stolen from (roofs, buildings, churches, medical centres, residential?)

Answer

Please see the table provided below:

| Location type | Location Description | Number of recorded offences |
|---------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Unknown | | 27 |
| Commercial | Building site | 15 |
| Commercial | Factory | 2 |
| Commercial | Office | 5 |
| Commercial | Other (commercial) | 5 |
| Shop | | 6 |
| Dwelling | House | 49 |
| Dwelling | Other | 4 |
| Education | School | 20 |
| Education | College | 1 |
| Financial | Bank | 2 |
| Hospitality/Leisure | | 3 |
| Medical | Dental surgery | 1 |
| Medical | Surgery/health centre | 1 |
| Public building | Church/religious building | 6 |
| Public building | Community centre | 3 |
| Public building | Emergency service building | 1 |
| Public building | Government building | 1 |
| Public building | Library | 1 |
| Public building | Local authority building | 1 |
| Public building | Orange hall | 1 |
| Public building | Public toilet | 1 |
| Public building | Other (public building) | 2 |

Source: Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

Question 4

How much was the lead stolen in this period worth in money terms?

Answer

From the 158 lead theft offences identified in 2010/11, the total reported value of the stolen lead recorded amounts to £53,485. However, it should be noted that 46 of the offences have no estimated value recorded.

Question 5

How many thefts of lead were reported to police in Northern Ireland between April 2009 and March 2010?

Answer

From 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010 there were 74 burglary, robbery or theft offences recorded by the PSNI where the stolen property includes Lead.

Question 6

How much was this lead worth?

Answer

From the 74 lead theft offences identified in 2009/10, the total reported value of the stolen lead recorded amounts to £41,461. However, 18 of the offences have no estimated value recorded.

Question 7

How many thefts of lead were reported to police in Northern Ireland between April 2008 and March 2009?

Answer

From 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009 there were 94 burglary, robbery or theft offences recorded by the PSNI where the stolen property includes Lead.

The above figures are based on information taken from a live crime recording system and may be subject to change.

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.