



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-04344

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Mobile Phone Snatches And Thefts

Request and Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has now completed its search for the information you requested and the answers to your questions are as follows.

Question 1

How many mobile phone thefts have been reported over the past three calendar years? Please could you break this figure down by month and by year?

Question 2

Of those reported thefts how many were reported as being "snatched" - while an individual was using the phone in the street or on public transport, for instance - over the past three calendar years? Please could you break this figure down by month and by year?

Question 3

If possible, please could you provide details of whether any violence, or threat of violence, took place during the theft? I understand if there is the threat of use of violence, this is recorded a robbery. Please could you break this figure down by month and by year?

Question 4

If possible, please could you break the information down by male and female victims? Please could you break this figure down by month and by year?

Question 5

If possible, please could you provide details of whether the police took any further action in each case of theft - was anyone arrested, charged or convicted? Please could you break this figure down by month and by year?

Answer

As per your clarification of 4th January 2012 when you advised that you were content to receive the information available from PSNI Central Statistics Branch please find on page 1 below a table illustrating the data retrieved.

Detections (or clearances as they may alternatively be known) are, broadly speaking, those crimes

that have been 'cleared up' by the police. Crimes are counted as 'detected or cleared' in accordance with strict counting rules issued by the Home Office. They are counted on the basis of crimes rather than offenders. For example, if six offenders are involved in a robbery and are all arrested and charged, then this counts as one detection (i.e. the robbery is deemed to be 'detected'). Alternatively if only one of the six is identified and charged while the other five remain unidentified and at large, this also means that the robbery can still be deemed as 'detected'.

The following methods of detection involve a formal sanction:

- Charging or issuing a summons to an offender;
- Issuing a caution to the offender;
- Having the offence accepted for consideration in court;
- The offender is a juvenile who is dealt with by means of an informed warning, restorative caution or prosecutorial diversion.

In addition, for the most serious offence types ('indictable only' – see recorded crime paragraph above for explanation) a non sanction detection can be claimed if:

- The Public Prosecution Service (PPS) directs no prosecution; or
- The case cannot proceed because the offender has died.

The table on page 2 illustrates the numbers of arrests made where the theft of a mobile has been involved and with regard to charges the table on page 3 below shows the number out of all offences which have a disposal of 'charged'.

In relation to convictions I have been advised that the Public Prosecution Service are best placed to provide a response and for your information I have provided a link below to their website

<http://www.ppsni.gov.uk/default.aspx?CATID=6>

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.psnipolice.uk

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

confidentiality.

Recorded and detected burglary, robbery and theft offences where the property stolen has been identified as a mobile phone

Please note: These figures are based on information taken from a live crime recording system and will be subject to change.

Year	Month	Female Victim				Male Victim				Missing/Unknown: Not Applicable or Police Officer Details Unavailable ¹				Total Recorded				Of those recorded, the number that have since been detected ²			
		Burglary	Robbery	Theft	Total	Burglary	Robbery	Theft	Total	Burglary	Robbery	Theft	Total	Burglary	Robbery	Theft	Total	Burglary	Robbery	Theft	Total
2009	January	17	6	69	92	21	13	75	109	10	3	6	19	48	22	150	220	3	3	11	17
2009	February	19	5	70	94	19	10	82	111	11	1	8	20	49	16	160	225	10	3	11	24
2009	March	30	6	87	123	32	6	61	99	3	1	8	12	65	13	156	234	9	5	6	20
2009	April	27	4	73	104	22	11	71	104	7	0	3	12	56	15	149	220	10	3	7	20
2009	May	23	0	97	120	23	10	73	106	15	1	6	22	61	11	176	248	9	2	11	22
2009	June	31	5	100	136	30	12	83	125	6	1	7	14	67	18	190	275	9	2	10	21
2009	July	28	3	88	119	21	12	81	114	8	1	11	20	57	16	180	253	9	3	11	23
2009	August	21	4	89	114	28	14	56	98	11	1	10	22	60	19	155	234	4	3	12	19
2009	September	18	4	78	100	22	14	59	95	8	0	9	17	48	18	146	212	11	1	16	28
2009	October	30	2	64	96	30	12	61	103	12	1	10	23	72	15	135	222	10	2	8	20
2009	November	19	8	81	108	22	15	58	95	12	1	9	22	53	24	148	225	5	2	3	10
2009	December	11	3	83	97	18	13	57	88	9	0	16	25	38	18	156	210	2	2	6	10
2009	Total	274	50	979	1303	288	142	817	1247	112	11	105	228	674	203	1901	2778	91	31	112	234
2010	January	21	8	75	104	20	15	47	82	7	4	7	18	48	27	129	204	1	7	8	16
2010	February	19	8	72	99	12	13	54	79	7	0	6	13	38	21	132	191	5	3	7	15
2010	March	20	8	73	101	23	11	60	94	10	2	2	14	53	21	135	209	4	2	4	10
2010	April	12	4	76	92	19	17	60	96	16	1	9	26	47	22	145	214	11	2	10	23
2010	May	20	2	77	99	21	15	74	110	7	0	5	12	48	17	156	221	9	1	8	18
2010	June	28	7	83	118	24	10	68	102	9	1	9	19	61	18	160	239	10	5	10	25
2010	July	22	1	74	97	32	16	74	122	10	1	4	15	64	18	152	234	9	5	10	24
2010	August	24	4	93	121	28	17	86	111	10	1	10	21	62	22	169	253	16	3	11	30
2010	September	24	4	92	120	34	13	54	101	10	2	10	22	68	19	156	243	10	2	9	21
2010	October	20	5	86	111	19	13	54	86	9	0	11	20	48	18	151	217	7	0	9	16
2010	November	11	0	89	100	19	14	43	76	7	4	9	20	37	18	141	196	5	0	8	13
2010	December	16	4	71	91	20	6	56	82	3	0	14	17	39	10	141	190	6	2	7	15
2010	Total	237	55	961	1253	271	160	710	1141	105	16	96	217	613	231	1767	2611	93	32	101	226
2011	January	16	3	81	100	13	12	40	65	11	0	8	19	40	15	129	184	5	3	9	17
2011	February	18	4	108	130	17	19	52	88	5	1	13	19	40	24	173	237	4	2	7	13
2011	March	17	3	87	107	17	12	51	80	7	0	10	17	41	15	148	204	5	1	11	17
2011	April	18	7	103	128	27	14	83	104	8	1	3	12	53	22	169	244	5	3	2	10
2011	May	18	5	106	129	19	13	60	92	1	1	5	7	38	19	171	228	4	1	11	16
2011	June	9	1	90	100	22	9	78	109	6	1	14	21	37	11	182	230	6	1	8	15
2011	July	15	2	98	115	21	7	66	94	2	1	8	11	38	10	172	220	4	2	7	13
2011	August	17	2	109	128	13	11	77	101	8	2	10	20	38	15	196	249	8	0	5	13
2011	September	11	2	97	110	9	8	70	87	5	0	10	15	25	10	177	212	1	0	9	10
2011	October	19	3	115	137	23	14	89	106	6	1	8	15	48	18	182	258	7	1	3	11
2011	November	19	10	120	149	9	25	81	115	7	1	15	23	35	38	216	287	4	1	6	11
2011	December	17	5	115	137	24	23	81	128	4	2	13	19	45	30	209	284	0	1	6	7
2011	Total	194	47	1229	1470	214	167	788	1169	70	11	117	198	478	225	2134	2837	53	16	84	153

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch

¹ Gender *Missing/Unknown* applies to those offences where victim gender details are unavailable. Gender *Unapplicable* applies to those offences not having a person recorded as the victim eg a business.

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Arrests made in relation to Mobile Phone Thefts

	Year 2009	Year 2010	Year 2011
January	18	18	22
February	14	20	41
March	41	22	22
April	21	8	19
May	19	12	24
June	9	28	33
July	20	17	20
August	25	34	29
September	43	40	12
October	19	26	26
November	18	12	27
December	20	14	20
Total	267	251	295

Offences cleared with a disposal of 'charged' in relation to Mobile Phone
Thefts

	Year 2009	Year 2010	Year 2011
January	13	9	10
February	14	10	10
March	11	6	13
April	10	11	6
May	5	10	8
June	14	12	8
July	12	16	8
August	11	19	11
September	21	18	3
October	13	9	10
November	7	9	11
December	6	11	7
Total	137	140	105