



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-02312

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Motorcycle Theft

Request and Answer:

Question 1

In 2010 how many motorcycles were reported stolen:

- a. In Northern Ireland?
- b. in Belfast?

Question 2

For how many of those cases was someone convicted in connection with that theft?

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 (18 hours).

To provide an answer to question 2 would require each individual motorcycle theft occurrence to be found and the court result of each offence documented. It is not currently possible for us to write a computer script to automatically find the court results.

There are 335 motorcycle offences relevant to your request. Allowing 5 to 10 minutes to check each one (an average of 8 minutes), the total time required to answer question 2 would be approximately 45 hours, therefore exceeding the time 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.

In accordance with Section 16 of the Act, I have also considered how this part of your request may be refined in order that the cost of complying with it may be facilitated within the 'appropriate limit'. Unfortunately the nature and structure of the information requested makes this impossible.

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 PSNI's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information relative to your request which was retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request. Please see below:

In Northern Ireland, there were 335 recorded thefts or unauthorised taking of motor vehicles where motorcycle/s are identified as the stolen vehicle.

In Belfast, there were 212 recorded thefts or unauthorised taking of motor vehicles where motorcycle/s are identified as the stolen vehicle.

Of the 335 recorded offences in Northern Ireland in 2010, 26 have since been regarded as detected.

Please note that these 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 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.