



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-01964

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Information About People Squatting

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 and the answers to your questions are as follows.

Question 1

The number of current squatters known by the police?

Question 2

For each squatter, I would like to know:

- the address they are believed to be currently squatting (or, if this is not possible, the general location, e.g. Canton, Splott, Caerphilly, etc.)
- the length of time they have been squatting?

Answer

I contacted several departments within the PSNI and have been advised that squatting is a Civil Offence in Northern Ireland and the PSNI do not hold the figures with regard to questions 1 and 2.

Question 3

The number of reports/calls to police about squatting in 2009, 2010 and 2011 so far.

Answer

The PSNI Information Communication Systems extracted from Crime Recording systems the number of occasions when the term squatting is recorded

2009 - 50
2010 - 46
Until 06th July 2011 - 28

Question 4

For each report, I would like to know:

- the address where the squatting is alleged to have occurred (or, if this is not possible, the general location, e.g. Canton, Splott, Caerphilly, etc.)
- any other details included in each report?

Answer

The towns recorded against the reports/calls for the numbers supplied in response to question 3 are as follows:

2009 – Armagh 1, Belfast 9, Carrickfergus 1, Castlederg 1, Coleraine 1, Craigavon 2, Downpatrick 1, Dungannon 4, Lisburn 2, Londonderry 1, Magherafelt 1, Newtownabbey 1, Omagh 1, Town unknown 24.

2010 – Ballymena 1, Belfast 8, Cullybackey 1, Cushendun 1, Dungannon 1, Limavady 2, Londonderry 1, Lurgan 1, Newcastle 2, Portadown 2, Saintfield 1, Town unknown 25

2011 – Ballymena 1, Banbridge 1, Belfast 10, Dungannon 1, Enniskillen 1, Limavady 2, Town unknown 12.

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.