



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2012-02900

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Arson Attacks in N Ireland 2009 -2012

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

Please state the number of arson attacks investigated by the PSNI in each of the last three years (2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12) and the first four months of this year (April to today), broken down by area/DCU.

In each year indicate in how many instances was a suspect/suspects (1) arrested (2) charged

Answer

In total there have been 5,989 offences of arson recorded (of which 541 recorded between 1st April 2012 and 31st July 2012).

Please note the number recorded since 1st April 2012 is provisional and will be subject to change.

Please find attached at the end of this correspondence a table provided by Statistics Branch containing the number of arson attacks reported from April 2009 to July 31, 2012 in each District. The table also provides the statistics for arson attacks which were reported as occurring at a dwelling.

Please find below the statistics provided by ICS for the instances when a suspect or suspects were **arrested** for arson from 2009 – July 31, 2012 :

April 1 2009 – March 31, 2010, there were a total of 186 arrests

April 1 2010 – March 31, 2011, there were a total of 208 arrests.

April 1 2011 – March 31, 2012, there were a total of 230 arrests

April 1 2012 – July 31, 2012, there were a total of 82 arrests.

Please find below the statistics provided by ICS for the instances when a suspect or suspects were **charged** for arson from 2009 – July 31, 2012 :

April 1 2009 – March 31, 2010, there were a total of 56 individuals charged

April 1 2010 – March 31, 2011, there were a total of 69 individuals charged

April 1 2011 – March 31, 2012, there were a total of 70 individuals charged

April 1 2012 – July 31, 2012, there were a total of 18 individuals charged

Question 2

Please state the number of arson attacks on residential property investigated by the PSNI in each of the last three years (2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12) and the first four months of this year (April to today), broken down by area/DCU.

In each year indicate in how many instances was a suspect/suspects (1) arrested (2) charged

Answer

A total of 1,393 of these arson attacks have been identified as being reported as occurring in a dwelling.

Please refer to the table provided at the end of the correspondence containing arson attacks from 2009 – July 31, 2012.

Please note the number recorded since 1st April 2012 is provisional and will be subject to change.

Please find below the statistics provided by ICS for the instances when a suspect or suspects were **arrested** for arson on residential property from 2009 – July 31, 2012 :

April 1 2009 – March 31, 2010, there were a total of 71 arrests

April 1 2010 – March 31, 2011, there were a total of 91 arrests

April 1 2011 – March 31, 2012, there were a total of 136 arrests

April 1 2012 – July 31, 2012, there were a total of 39 arrests

Please find below the statistics provided by ICS for the instances when a suspect or suspects were **charged** for arson on residential property from 2009 – July 31, 2012 :

April 1 2009 – March 31, 2010, there were a total of 25 individuals charged

April 1 2010 – March 31, 2011, there were a total of 35 individuals charged

April 1 2011 – March 31, 2012, there were a total of 45 individuals charged

April 1 2012 – July 31, 2012, there were a total of 9 individuals charged

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.

Arson Offences recorded by the police 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12, 1st April to 31st July 2012

District	Area	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	1 st Apr – 31 st Jul 2012	Grand Total
A District	North Belfast	180	150	107	33	470
	West Belfast	119	118	72	19	328
A District Total		299	268	179	52	798
B District	East Belfast	72	72	74	35	253
	South Belfast	91	98	88	30	307
B District Total		163	170	162	65	560
C District	Ards	70	74	47	7	198
	Castlereagh	47	31	29	5	112
	Down	68	79	54	14	215
	North Down	59	56	62	23	200
C District Total		244	240	192	49	725
D District	Antrim	83	106	80	31	300
	Carrickfergus	54	31	34	11	130
	Lisburn	93	116	96	37	342
	Newtownabbey	102	120	79	35	336
D District Total		332	373	289	114	1108
E District	Armagh	46	33	30	16	125
	Banbridge	32	28	26	14	100
	Craigavon	124	94	84	24	326
	Newry & Mourne	95	102	70	19	286
E District Total		297	257	210	73	837
F District	Cookstown	27	36	26	10	99
	Dungannon&S Tyrone	64	55	73	12	204
	Fermanagh	52	59	56	20	187
	Omagh	31	34	33	7	105
F District Total		174	184	188	49	595
G District	Foyle	131	105	121	58	415
	Limavady	31	41	42	17	131
	Magherafelt	20	18	8	6	52
	Strabane	46	36	23	16	121
G District Total		228	200	194	97	719
H District	Ballymena	80	61	52	11	204
	Ballymoney	27	19	23	3	72
	Coleraine	68	50	54	17	189
	Larne	51	45	36	7	139
	Moyle	17	17	6	4	44
H District Total		243	192	171	42	648
Grand Total		1,980	1,884	1,585	541	5,990

Arson Offences on a dwelling recorded by the police 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12, 1st April to 31st July 2012

District	Area	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	1 st Apr – 31 st Jul 2012	Grand Total
A District	North Belfast	29	33	30	8	100
	West Belfast	22	16	28	4	70
A District Total		51	49	58	12	170
B District	East Belfast	20	23	19	11	73
	South Belfast	27	20	27	10	84
B District Total		47	43	46	21	157
C District	Ards	14	16	13	2	45
	Castlereagh	5	7	4	2	18
	Down	14	12	17	2	45
	North Down	11	16	11	6	44
C District Total		44	51	45	12	152
D District	Antrim	13	24	9	5	51
	Carrickfergus	6	5	4	1	16
	Lisburn	18	35	29	9	91
	Newtownabbey	21	19	18	10	68
D District Total		58	83	60	25	226
E District	Armagh	12	2	4	1	19
	Banbridge	8	6	5	4	23
	Craigavon	31	28	22	9	90
	Newry & Mourne	21	22	19	6	68
E District Total		72	58	50	20	200
F District	Cookstown	5	6	8	2	21
	Dungannon&S Tyrone	10	11	22	5	48
	Fermanagh	8	7	15	2	32
	Omagh	7	10	12	3	32
F District Total		30	34	57	12	133
G District	Foyle	16	22	31	12	81
	Limavady	5	14	10	6	35
	Magherafelt	5	5	2	3	15
	Strabane	2	8	7	9	26
G District Total		28	49	50	30	157
H District	Ballymena	33	16	16	5	70
	Ballymoney	6	6	8	0	20
	Coleraine	19	21	15	4	59
	Larne	14	19	10	1	44
	Moyle	0	2	1	2	5
H District Total		72	64	50	12	198
Grand Total		402	431	416	144	1,393

Please note: Figures from the 1st April 2012 are provisional and subject to change.