



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2012-01095

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Burglaries Committed Against The Elderly

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

I am writing in relation to attacks on the elderly (people aged 65+). I wish to apply for a full disclosure of the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please provide the following information:

* How many cases of burglary/robbery where the victim has been elderly have been reported to police during (1) 2010 (2) 2011 (3) 2012 so far. Provide a breakdown by area (e.g. Dungannon, Cookstown etc). Indicate in each instance whether a suspect has been (1) arrested and (2) charged

Answer

Please find the table attached at the end of the correspondence which provides recorded and detected burglary and robbery offences where the victim is aged 65+ years from 2010 – 29 February 2012.

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.psnj.police.uk

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

Recorded and detected Burglary and Robbery offences where the victim is aged 65+ years

Please note: These figures include information from 1st April 2011 which is considered provisional and subject to change

	2010 ¹			2011 ¹			1 st January to 29th February 2012 ¹		
	Recorded	Of those recorded, the number since detected	Of the those detected, the number by charge/summons	Recorded	Of those recorded, the number since detected	Of the those detected, the number by charge/summons	Recorded	Of those recorded, the number since detected	Of the those detected, the number by charge/summons
Antrim	42	2	2	49	2	2	9	0	0
Ards	57	1	1	56	3	2	4	0	0
Armagh	60	0	0	66	5	5	10	2	2
Ballymena	32	2	2	41	2	2	5	0	0
Ballymoney	13	1	1	12	0	0	2	0	0
Banbridge	39	2	2	30	0	0	7	2	2
Carrickfergus	45	3	2	28	3	3	5	0	0
Castlereagh	30	0	0	41	1		13	2	2
Coleraine	59	10	10	35	1	1	18	10	10
Cookstown	22	1	1	23	4	4	0	0	0
Craigavon	88	3	3	60	1	1	10	0	0
Down	59	5	5	71	2	2	6	0	0
Dungannon & South Tyrone	41	2	2	38	2	2	7	0	0
East Belfast	68	5	5	62	3	3	7	0	0
Fermanagh	43	5	2	48	1	1	8	0	0
Foyle	41	8	7	33	7	6	5	0	0
Larne	22	2	2	18	1	1	3	0	0
Limavady	19	2	2	12	3	3	3	0	0
Lisburn	81	9	8	100	7	2	4	0	0
Magherafelt	6	0	0	20	3	3	3	1	1
Moyle	10	1	1	25	2	2	3	0	0
Newry & Mourne	129	4	4	98	4	4	13	1	1
Newtownabbey	96	2	1	109	3	3	16	0	0
North Belfast	82	3	3	92	6	6	13	0	0
North Down	47	4	4	62	4	2	9	0	0
Omagh	22	0	0	26	1	1	5	0	0
South Belfast	76	7	5	85	10	6	4	0	0
Strabane	12	1	1	8	1	1	0	0	0
West Belfast	50	2	2	41	6	6	5	0	0
Total	1391	87	78	1389	88	74	197	18	18

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch

¹ The number of person victims of burglary or robbery offences with an unknown age were 79, 50 and 4 for 2010, 2011 and 2012 to date respectively.

Detections

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.