



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2012-02441

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Cautions for Arson

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

Please state how many people were arrested on suspicion of arson in each of the last three years (2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12)?

Answer

The total number arrested on suspicion of arson in 2009/10 was 224, 2010/11 was 241 and in 2011/12 was 247.

Question

Please state how many of these people were dealt with using a caution or official warning, instead of a criminal hearing, in each of these years (2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12)?

Answer

The total number who were dealt with using a caution or official warning in 2009/10 was 1, 2010/11 was 7 and in 2011/12 was 6.

Question

Please state how many people were arrested on suspicion of arson where the offence was a gorse fire in each of the last three years (2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12)?

Answer

PSNI do not record this level of information for arson which is specific to 'gorse fires'. However ICS have searched the circumstances of arrest using the word 'gorse' and from the search of information the statistics are as follows:

In 2009/10, 2010/11 there was no incidents recorded. In 2011/12 there was 1 incident.

Question

Please state how many of these people were dealt with using a caution or official warning, instead of a criminal hearing, in each of these years (2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12)

Answer

In 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12, there were no persons dealt with using a caution or official warning.

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.