



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-04339

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Metal Thefts

Request and Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has now completed its search for the information you requested and the answers to your questions are as follows.

Question

Could you please provide the following information for each of the past five years.

1. The total number of metal thefts reported to your force in each of the past five years and the total value of those thefts
2. The number of metal thefts from churches or other religious buildings reported in each year and the total value of those thefts
3. The number of convictions for metal thefts and the percentage of thefts (by number and value) successfully detected
4. The number of people convicted in each year, together with age and ethnicity
5. The number of prosecutions pending (in terms of number of individuals, number of thefts and value of metal

Answer

As per clarification received from you on 19th January 2012 please find below on page 1 a table containing the information supplied by PSNI Central Statistics Branch. I have also been advised by the branch who maintain the PSNI crime recording systems that as there is no specific offence code relating to Metal Thefts to obtain any further information with regard to conviction details would take in excess of the time permitted under legislation (18hrs).

The Police Service of Northern Ireland can neither confirm nor deny that it holds any other information relevant to your request by virtue of the following exemptions:

Section 23(5) Information relating to the Security bodies;

Section 23 is an absolute class-based exemption and therefore there is no requirement to conduct a harm or public interest test

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, robbery and theft offences where the property stolen was metal

PSNI

***Please note:** These figures are based on information taken from a live crime recording system and will be subject to change.*

	All metal thefts			Of all metal thefts, those identified as having taken place at a Church/Religious building		
	Recorded	Of those recorded, the number since detected	Value ¹	Recorded	Of those recorded, the number since detected	Value
2007/08	210	10	£263,473.59	2	0	£400.00
2008/09	253	18	£268,975.50	10	1	£7,900.50
2009/10	231	10	£235,551.35	9	0	£8,620.00
2010/11	553	39	£669,383.44	8	0	£2,700.00
1 st Apr-31 st Dec 2011	732	50	£716,903.61	38	1	£49,220.00

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch

¹ The value information has been provided where the information has been completed. In 2007/08, 51 offences did not have property value information available, 49 offences in 2008/09, 54 offences in 2009/10, 163 in 2010/11 and 238 from 1st April to 31st December 2011.