



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2012-02068

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Dangerous Dogs

Request and Answer:

Question 1

How many dogs, including details of which breed, have been seized under the Dangerous Dogs Act between April 1, 2011 and March 31, 2012.

Question 2

How many dogs, including details of which breed, have been destroyed under the Dangerous Dogs Act between April 1, 2011 and March 31, 2012.

Question 3

How many attacks carried out by a dog have been reported between April 1, 2011 and March 31, 2012 on:

- i) An adult
- ii) A child
- iii) Another animal

Question 4

Where possible please provide details of the type of attack - breed of dog, type of injuries, where it took place and what action was taken.

Question 5

How many owners have been prosecuted under the Dangerous Dogs Act between April 1, 2011 and March 31, 2012. Please include details of the breed of dog and the action taken.

Answer

Searches were conducted however these searches failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

The Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 does not apply to Northern Ireland, with the exception of S.8 which makes provision for corresponding legislation to be made here. That corresponding legislation is The Dangerous Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 and is enforced by district councils. Police do not have any powers conferred by this Order.

Please see the links provided below:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/1991/2292/contents/made> which also amends The Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/1983/764/contents>.

Statistics Branch has advised that offences within this legislation (Dangerous Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1991) are not included in PSNI crime statistics.

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.