



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2014-03762

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Arson Attacks

Request and Answer:

Question

Please state the number of arson attacks investigated by the PSNI in each of the last three years (2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14) and the first four months of this year (April to July), broken down by area/DCU. In each year indicate in how many instances was a suspect/suspects (1) arrested (2) charged

Clarification sought

To enable the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) to meet your request could you please provide further clarification on the following - It may be possible to provide the number of cases of arson **recorded** in the time frame you seek along with the number of arrests related to these offences although the related arrest/conviction may not be specifically for the offence of arson. Please advise if you would be content to receive this.

Clarification Received

Apologies - yes recorded is fine rather than investigated.

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.

Please find below a table showing the number of offences of arson recorded from 2011/12 to July 2014 and the number of persons arrested or charged in connection with the arson offence.

Recorded Arson offences April 2011 - July 2014

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	April - July 2014
Recorded offences	1,585	1,498	1,496	513
Arrested ¹	198	161	165	41
Charged ²	74	54	65	17

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch

¹ Arrested and processed through custody, an individual was arrested in connection with the Arson incident reported to police. The individual may have been arrested for an offence other than the Arson offence which was recorded in accordance with the Home Office Counting Rules.

² Of those arrested an individual was subsequently charged in connection with the original incident reported to Police.

Please note: This information is based on data extracted from a live system and may be subject to change. It is dependent on the information having been input into the system in such a way as to identify those records that are relevant.

Please note that figures for recorded offences within the current financial year (i.e. from 1st April 2014) are provisional and will be subject to change. Figures for arrests and charges are subject to change as an individual may be arrested and charged for historic offences at any time.

The offences of arson were extracted from the recorded crime dataset for the time period requested and linked to the custody data to identify if there were any arrests in connection with the incident reported to police, the offence that the person was subsequently arrested and processed through custody for and charged with may not necessarily have been the offence of arson.

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.