



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2014-02506

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Attacks on Guide Dogs

Request and Answer:

Question

Any attacks on guide dogs within the last 5 years, what the nature of the attacks was and whether anyone was prosecuted.

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.

There were a total of 3 attacks on guide dogs reported to PSNI within the last 5 years. All the reported incidents were attacks on the guide dogs by another dog.

There were no charges or prosecutions for the report incidents.

Please note from the NICHE property Statistics Branch extracted data for the five years April 2009 to March 2014 where the property was classified as damaged and where the damaged property was a dog. I did not find any records indicating that the dog involved was a guide dog.

However, Statistics Branch then also had a look at the incident data and did a free text search for 'guide dog'. I identified three incidents, one in 2009, one in 2011 one in 2012 where 'guide dog' was mentioned in the incident summary and where it appears that the guide dog was attacked by another dog. I did not find any other incidents indicating any form of attack on a guide dog.

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.psni.police.uk

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