



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2014-00784

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Dogs Attacking Sheep

### Request and Answer:

#### Question

From January 1 2013 to December 31 2013, how many incidents were reported involving the following:

Dogs chasing/worrying sheep  
Dogs attacking/injuring sheep  
Dogs killing sheep

#### 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.

Statistics Branch do not hold data on incidents of dogs chasing/worrying sheep, attacking/injuring sheep or killing sheep. However, Statistics Branch has retrieved the number of 'Criminal Damage' offences where the damaged property was identified as 'Sheep' and there have been 3 incidents in 2013. I have also been advised by our Wildlife unit that they have a record of 126 incidents of livestock worrying reported to PSNI from 1 January 2013 to 1 October 2013, however this is not specific to sheep, as per your request, but other farm animals such as cattle etc.

To assist you with your enquiry, I can advise that local councils may record information relevant to your request as sheep worrying falls under council legislation – Dogs (NI) Order 1983.

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](mailto: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](http://www.psnj.police.uk)

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