



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2014-01492

**Keyword:** Operational Policing

**Subject:** Big Cat Sightings From 2011 To Date

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

Please would you give me details of:

All reported sightings of big cats to your police force in the calendar years 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 to date. Please provide the date, approximate location and brief description of each sighting.

I would prefer this data to be supplied in soft copy (.xls) format. If you require clarification of any part of this request, please do not hesitate to contact me.

#### 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 see the table below which details all Big Cat Sightings that have been reported to the PSNI Wildlife Officer.

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.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Description</b>
01/04/2011	Bangor	Cat like a cougar
19/07/2011	Lisburn	Large black cat size of a dog
01/04/2012	Dungannon	Large black cat type animal
04/05/2013	Bangor	Large black cat type animal
26/06/2013	Ballymena	Black panther/ cat
29/06/2013	Limavady	Large black cat, bushy tailed, similar to a puma
13/07/2013	Portrush	Very large cat
02/09/2013	Dromore	Black cat, size of a small collie dog
03/09/2013	Castlewellan	Black Cat
08/09/2013	Fintona	Black panther
11/09/2013	Downpatrick	Large black cat
30/09/2013	Rathfriland	Big dark cat with long tail
06/10/2013	Dromara	Large black cat
01/11/2013	Glenavy	Large black cat the size of a labrador
21/03/2014	Dromore	Big Black Cat
07/02/2014	Lurgan	Big Black Cat
Please note these statistics are from 2011- 2014 and are subject to change depending on how the report has been recorded or if Wildlife office was made aware.		
Incidents in 2012 may be incomplete due to change in statistic recording methods		