



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2014-02213

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Squatting or Unauthorised Occupants

Request and Answer:

Question

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request details of reports of squatters and unauthorised occupants. More details on this can be found here:

<http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/squatters-and-unauthorised-occupants>

For each year from 2010 to 2014 so far (or for fewer years if necessary to bring this request within the time constraints of the FOI Act), please disclose the following:

- The number of reports received of squatting or unauthorised occupants
- For each report please disclose when it was reported; the general location (e.g. town/city/village); any available details of the incident or complaint; and if/when the squatter/unauthorised occupant was removed.

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 reports received of squatting or unauthorised occupants each year from 1st January 2010 to 23rd April 2014.

	Number of calls received ¹	Number of calls where squatter or unauthorised occupant identified
2010	9	4
2011	18	9
2012	19	10
2013	26	8
2014 to 23 rd April	4	0
	76	31

¹ Calls have been identified based on the words 'squatter' or 'unauthorised occupant' appearing in the call for service made to police.

Please see further table attached at the end of this correspondence showing date of report, location of the incident and if/when the squatter/unauthorised occupant was removed. I have not provided details of each incident as the information would attract an FOI exemption under Section 40 – Personal Information.

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.

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.

Reports of squatting or unauthorised occupants made to police in Northern Ireland 2010 to date, incidents where squatters or unauthorised occupants were identified

Date Reported	Town	Was squatter / unauthorised occupant removed?	date squatter / unauthorised occupant removed
26-May-10	BELFAST	YES	26-May-10
19-Sep-10	NEWCASTLE		
14-Oct-10	CUSHENDUN		
26-Oct-10	IRVINESTOWN		
08-Feb-11	BELFAST		
28-Mar-11	LIMAVADY		
22-May-11	BELFAST		
23-Jun-11	DUNGANNON	YES	23-Jun-11
01-Jul-11	BELFAST	YES	01-Jul-11
22-Jul-11	CRAIGAVON		
27-Jul-11	DRUMANESS		
23-Nov-11	COALISLAND	YES	23-Nov-11
21-Dec-11	BELFAST	SQUATTER DID NOT RETURN TO PROPERTY.	
24-Jan-12	GILFORD		
30-Apr-12	LONDONDERRY		
11-May-12	ANTRIM		
10-Jun-12	LONDONDERRY	YES	12-Jun-12
12-Jun-12	BELFAST	YES	18-Jun-12
24-Jul-12	BELFAST	YES	24-Jul-12
24-Aug-12	NEWTOWNABBEY		
28-Aug-12	PORTSTEWART		
05-Sep-12	BELFAST		
10-Dec-12	DUNGANNON		
23-Apr-13	CRUMLIN		
06-Jul-13	BELFAST		
27-Jul-13	BANGOR		
27-Jul-13	BANGOR		
04-Nov-13	NEWRY		
11-Nov-13	NEWRY		
15-Nov-13	COOKSTOWN		
18-Nov-13	COLERAINE		