Keeping People Safe

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Request Number: F-2016-00209

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Drive-Offs from Petrol Stations

Request and Answer:

Question

For the years 2015 and 2014 please detail the number of times people driving off the petrol station forecourt without paying for their fuel was reported to the police.

Answer

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Act I can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does hold information to which your request relates and the decision has been taken to disclose the following.

The number of crimes recorded in calendar years 2014 and 2015 for offences of making off without payment of other thefts where the property stolen was petrol or diesel from locations identified as Petrol Filling Stations is as follows:

	Recorded Crimes
1st January 2014 to 31st December 2014	955
1st January 2015 to 31st December 2015	993

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch

The information has been extracted from the recorded crime data series where the offence was 49a Making off without payment *or* 49 Other theft *and the property stolen was* petrol *or* diesel *and the mo location indicated the premises were a* petrol station *or the address information i.e. premises name indicated the location was a* petrol station *and the offence was reported to police from 1 January 2014-31 December 2015.*

A change in the Home Office Counting Rules, introduced in April 2014, has resulted in more offences of making off without payment being recorded (mainly non-payment of fuel at petrol stations). This change has made it more difficult for these offences to meet the criteria which allow crimes to be cancelled.

***Please note**: This information is based on data extracted from a live crime recording 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.psni.police.uk

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