



# FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2016-00284

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Animal Cruelty

**Request and Answer:**

**Question 1**

How many instances of animal cruelty have been reported in the last five years? (1 Jan 2011-Present Day)

**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. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

In the last five years there have been a total of 5973 instances of animal cruelty reported to the PSNI.

**Question 2**

If possible is there a breakdown of the types of animals involved in those reports?

**Answer**

Please find a table provided below which gives a breakdown of the types of animals involved in the reported instances of animal cruelty in the last five years. Please note that the requested breakdown by animal type is not held for the years 2012, 2013, and 2014.

Please Note: The information provided in the table below is subject to change and the identification of the relevant information is dependent on the information being initially recorded in the correct format on the PSNI system.

Animal Type	Year	Reports of Animal Cruelty
Dog	2016	362
Cat		51
Deer		1
Fox		3
Goat		5
Seal		1
Reptiles		3
Bird (Captive/ Pet)		7
Livestock (Cow/Sheep/Pig etc)		72
Horse/ Donkey		68

Bird (Wild)		19
Hare/ Rabbit		6
Fish		1
<b>2016 - Total</b>		<b>599</b>
Dog	2015	714
Livestock (cattle, pigs & sheep)		126
Badger		8
Horse		135
Donkey		14
Birds (Wild, eg. duck, swan etc)		54
Cat		85
Other		18
Birds (of Prey)		8
Deer		6
Fox		4
Goat		10
Birds - (Captive Bred, eg. parrot)		4
Seal		10
<b>2015 - Total</b>		<b>1196</b>
No Breakdown of Animals	<b>2014 - Total</b>	<b>821</b>
No Breakdown of Animals	<b>2013 - Total</b>	<b>1245</b>
No Breakdown of Animals	<b>2012 - Total</b>	<b>510</b>
Birds - (Captive Bred, eg. Parrot)	2011	6
Birds (Wild, eg. duck, swan etc)		90
Cat		99
Deer		16
Dog		727
Goat		16
Horse		394
Other		27
Donkey		49
Reptiles		4
Seal		15
Fox		9
Badger		7
Birds (of Prey)		9
Livestock (cattle, sheep, pigs & poultry)		133
Fish	1	
<b>2011 - Total</b>		<b>1602</b>

### Question 3

How many people have been arrested as a result of these reports?

### Answer

There were a total of 161 people arrested between the 1st of January 2011 and the 31st of May 2016 for an animal cruelty related offence.

Note: This relates to those persons arrested and processed through police custody. Therefore, it is possible that persons arrested and street bailed or dealt with by other means e.g. discretionary disposal, penalty notice for disorder etc. may not be included in the figures.

### Question 4

Did any animals die as a result of the reported cruelty?

### Answer

There is no information held in relation to the number of animals which died as a result of the

reported animal cruelty instances.

**Question 5**

If so, how many animals died and what type were they?

**Answer**

There is no information held in relation to the number of animals which died as a result of the reported animal cruelty instances.

**Question 6**

Is it possible to get a breakdown year-by-year for the timeframe of the number of instances reported and the types and numbers of animals involved?

**Answer**

Please see the response to Question 2 for a year-by-breakdown of the reported instances of animal cruelty.

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.