



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2018-02850

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Burglaries and Attempted Burglaries in the Newry, Mourne and Down

### Request and Answer:

Your request for information has now been considered and I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested. The reasons for this are set out in more detail below.

### Request

I am seeking the number of reported burglaries, or reported attempted burglaries, in the Newry, Mourne and Down district area in October 2018. I'm also looking the same statistics for the dates November 1 to November 23. Any additional information is welcome.

### Answer

Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states the fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The following exemption has been applied:

### Section 21 - Information Reasonably Accessible by Other Means

Statistics Branch publish monthly burglary figures by policing district in the monthly update of police recorded crime. The publication including figures to 31st October 2018 was published on the 29th November 2018. The monthly figures by district and crime type can be found in the excel spreadsheet crime tables in the worksheet pivot table – crime.

<https://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/police-recorded-crime-statistics/>

The following response is applicable to your request in relation to figures for November 1 to November 23.

### Answer

Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the

applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states that fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

The exemption, as well as the factors the Department considered when deciding where the public interest lies, are listed below:

## **Section 22 – Information Intended for Future Publication**

The full text of exemptions can be found at [www.legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk) and further guidance on how they operate can be located on the Information Commissioners Office website [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk).

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 it has been decided to refuse access to the information you have requested. Under Section 22 (1) of the Act the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) is not obliged to disclose information that is held with a view to its publication at some future date.

The next update providing figures to 30th November 2018 will be published on the 18th December 2018.

Section 22 is a qualified exemption and PSNI is obliged to carry out a Public Interest Test.

### **Public Interest Test**

#### Factors Favouring Release

Disclosure would demonstrate PSNI's openness and transparency.

#### Factors Favouring Retention

The spending of additional funds in order to facilitate this FOI request would not be in the public interest as this information is due to be released in the near future.

### **Decision**

There needs to be a real and valid reason which identifies a tangible benefit to the public from disclosure of information. As the information is intended to be published at a future date, it is reasonable to exempt it as publication is imminent.

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 email.

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.psnipolice.uk](http://www.psnipolice.uk)

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