



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2019-00161

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Car Thefts

Request and 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.

Clarification provided with the request:

Should this request overrun your capacity that you are legally obliged to respond to, please prioritise questions 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Request 1

For the calendar years of 2017 and 2018, please provide yearly totals of the number of car thefts that were reported to your constabulary.

Answer

Please see the Excel spreadsheet attached separately to this correspondence detailing offences of 'Theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle' and 'Aggravated vehicle taking' recorded between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2018. The table contains 1,411 offences of 'theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle' and 'aggravated vehicle taking' for 2017 and 1,453 for 2018.

The following notes are applicable to the data provided:

Data was extracted where a crime of 'Theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle' or 'Aggravated vehicle taking' was recorded during the period 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2018.

Address information was extracted from the incident linked to each crime and the street and town of the occurrence address has been provided. Note that this may relate to a location within the vicinity of the street mentioned.

Note also that not all addresses may have been input in a standardised way, resulting in some minor spelling or descriptive differences, which in turn would not enable crimes recorded against each version of the same address to be aggregated. This may affect any final 'ranking' of street and town combinations in that on this basis, some streets would not feature in a top 5 but may have done so if the addresses had been input in the same way.

Reference numbers provided for Request 1, 3 & 4 refer solely to this data set and are not linked in

any way to those provided in the response for Request 5 & 6.

Please note: Changes can be expected to figures from 1st April 2018 as records are subject to ongoing validation and quality assurance processes until publication in May 2019; annual revisions to previously published financial year figures may also be applied at this time.

Request 2

For the calendar years of 2017 and 2018, please provide yearly totals that specify how many reported car thefts in your constabulary were categorised as 'keyless theft' (otherwise known as 'relay theft').

Answer

Enquiries made in relation to Request 2 has identified that previously a similar FOI request confirmed a manual trawl of car theft records would be required to identify incidents involving 'keyless thefts'. This retrieval process grossly exceeded the appropriate cost limit. As per your clarification, this request has not been processed.

Request 3

For the calendar year of 2018, please tell me the five street names in your constabulary where the highest number of car thefts were reported, detailing the name of the street.

Request 4

The actual number of car thefts that were reported on each of the five streets during this time period.

Answer

In response to Request 3 & 4, please refer to the response and notes provided at Request 1.

Request 5

For the calendar year of 2018, please tell me the five car models that were reported stolen the most times in your constabulary, detailing:

- the make and model of the cars.
- how many thefts were reported for each car model.

Request 6

For the calendar year of 2018, please tell me the five car models that were caught running a red light the most in your constabulary, detailing:

- The make and model of the cars
- How many thefts were reported for each of the five models during this time period.

Preferred format: Machine readable / Microsoft Excel.

Answer

In response to Request 5 & 6 please see attached Excel spreadsheet attached separately to this correspondence, detailing the make and model for all cars classified as stolen between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2018.

The following notes are applicable to the data provided:

Data was extracted for the period 1 January 2017 - 31 December 2018 where the classification contained the word 'stolen' and where the vehicle type was 'car'.

Note that car make information is not always input in a standardised way and there may be minor spelling or descriptive differences, or it may be missing altogether. This may affect the final 'ranking'

in that on this basis, some makes/models would not feature in a top 5 but may have done so if the information had been input in the same way.

Reference numbers provided refer solely to this data set and are not linked in any way to those provided in the response for Request 1, 3 & 4.

Please note: 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.psni.police.uk

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