



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-01651

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Cat 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. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Request 1(i)

What were the total number of cat theft crimes in 2015?

Request 1 (ii)

What was the outcome (charge/summons, community resolution, active investigation, evidential difficulties, no suspect identified) for each cat theft crime in 2015?

Request 2 (i)

What were the total number of cat theft crimes in 2016?

Request 2 (ii)

What was the outcome (charge/summons, community resolution, active investigation, evidential difficulties, no suspect identified) for each cat theft crime in 2016?

Request 3 (i)

What were the total number of cat theft crimes in 2017?

Request 3 (ii)

What was the outcome (charge/summons, community resolution, active investigation, evidential difficulties, no suspect identified) for each cat theft crime in 2017?

Answers 1 – 3

The response is based on crimes recorded in Northern Ireland between 1st January 2015 and 31st December 2017 for offences of burglary, robbery and theft. The figures provided are based on the number of the number of burglary, robbery or theft offences.

Property details were linked to the identified crime records and have been included in the response where the property description was set to 'Cat' and was classified as 'stolen'.

where there was linked property classified as stolen and where the property description was 'Cat'.

	Number of offences	Offence Outcome
2015	4	1 x caution, 1 x evidential difficulties, 2 x investigation complete no suspect identified
2016	1	1 x evidential difficulties
2017	1	1 x investigation complete no suspect identified

Please note: This information is based on data extracted from a live 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.

Request 4

What criteria do you use for recording a cat/kitten as a theft as opposed to missing?

Answer

Crime recording is governed by the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) and the Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR), details of which are available through the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counting-rules-for-recorded-crime>

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.

