



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-02430

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Stolen Vehicles

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

In each of the last five years, please state the 10 most common stolen makes of car (e.g. Vauxhall, Ford etc.) and the number stolen (e.g. 100 Fords)

Request 2

Please state the three streets with the highest number of vehicle thefts in each year and the number of thefts per street

Answers

The data requested is not held in the format requested, however the information provided in the separate spreadsheets provides the data held by PSNI regarding vehicles stolen and the streets stolen from for a 5 year period.

Please note the two data sets provided in the spreadsheet are **entirely independent** and the reference numbers contained within each are in no way linked.

In addition to the data provided for request 1 please note the following:

- Data was extracted from the vehicle database for the period 1 April 2013 - 31 March 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 some makes will not feature in the top 10 but may have if the information had been input in the same way.
- Attempts have been made to remove duplication by identifying cases where multiple vehicles are listed under the same incident number and the make, model, vin and vrm are the same. **It is not possible to identify all duplicates as detailed information is not always available and it is possible the incident relates to the theft of multiple vehicles.**

In addition to the data provide in response 2, please note the following:

- 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 April 2013 - 31 March 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 **will affect** the final 'ranking' of street and town combinations in that some streets will not feature in the top 10 but may have if the address had been input in the same way.

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.