



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-02763

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Theft of Sheep From January 2014 To Date

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

How many crimes of theft* involving sheep have been recorded over the last five calendar years (annual year, Jan 2014-Jan 2018 (to date)?)

Request 2

What were the recorded outcomes/disposals of each of the crimes of theft involving sheep over the last five calendar years: 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 (annual year, Jan-Jan)?

Request 3

What was the total number of sheep stolen over the last five calendar years where recorded (annual year, Jan 2014-Jan 2018 (to date)?)

Answers

Please find the information requested which have has been provided in a separate spreadsheet.

*Crimes of theft meaning the number of crimes reported, not individual numbers of sheep.

The details provided are based on offences of burglary, robbery or theft where there is linked property classified as stolen with a property description of sheep, or where the text 'sheep' occurs in the property common name or remarks fields.

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. The data was extracted on 27th November 2018. Following the introduction in Northern Ireland of a 'wider outcomes framework' in April 2015, outcomes can be applied to all crimes recorded. Prior to April 2015 only sanction outcomes were applied. The 74 records for 2014 and 24 records for 2015 where no outcome was applied relate to crimes recorded prior to April 2015.

Details on the number of sheep stolen may be found in the common name, remarks or quantity

fields. For some records the number stolen may not be available.

Request 2A

If possible, can you tell me how many of these crimes were referred to the CPS?

Answer

Of the 237 crimes recorded, a total of 6 had case files submitted to the Public Prosecution Service (PPS). Please note that N Ireland does not have CPS and the PPS would be our equivalent.

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.