



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-02167

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Thefts from Vehicles at Inch Abbey Car Park, Downpatrick

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.

Request 1

I would like to the request the following under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding thefts from motor vehicles at Inch Abbey car park near Downpatrick. Can you please provide the information by year from 01 January 2010. How many incidents of theft or attempted theft have been reported to PSNI since 2010 to date?

Answer

Newry, Mourne & Down policing district have confirmed there have been 25 incidents within the requested time-frame.

Request 2

How many of these incidents have been investigated?

Answer

3 incidents were reported for information purposes only and the remaining 22 incidents have all been investigated.

Request 3

How often have items stolen during the theft been recovered and, if recovered where have they been located and are they intact? Are these areas checked when other thefts occur?

Answer

Property was recovered in 8 incidents, none fully intact. Information is not held on police records and not searchable, a number of items had been discovered by members of the public and handed into police as found property. There has been no location identified from the information requested where stolen property is most likely to be found, however officers use local knowledge to conduct investigations to the maximum.

Request 4

How many of these cases been reported to Down District Council/Newry, Mourne and Down District

Council?

Answer

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 legislates for the rights of an individual to seek access to **recorded information**. The Act only extends to requests for recorded information as defined by Section 84 of the Act and does not require public authorities to answer questions or create information to answer an FOI request.

Searches conducted by Newry, Mourne and Down policing district failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided. This information is not recorded in the log entries for each investigation. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

Request 5

Has consideration been given to the placement of CCTV cameras in the car park?

Answer

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 legislates for the rights of an individual to seek access to **recorded information**. The Act only extends to requests for recorded information as defined by Section 84 of the Act and does not require public authorities to answer questions or create information to answer an FOI request.

Searches conducted by Newry, Mourne and Down policing district failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided. There is no record of requests in relation to CCTV in relation to the incidents found. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

Request 6

Have there ever been any notices warning car owners of the risk of theft?

Request 7

If not, has the installation of warning notices been considered in the past or planned for the future?

Answer

In response to Request 6 & 7, the Freedom of Information Act 2000 legislates for the rights of an individual to seek access to **recorded information**. The Act only extends to requests for recorded information as defined by Section 84 of the Act and does not require public authorities to answer questions or create information to answer an FOI request.

Searches conducted by Newry, Mourne and Down policing district failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided. This information is not held on police records. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

However, Newry, Mourne and Down policing district has advised there are no current plans to request the installation of warning notices with the consent of partner agencies but may be considered as part of a wider crime prevention strategy where crime hot spots or areas identified where offences are more likely to occur.

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.