



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2021-00135

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Stolen Dogs 2020

Request and Answer:

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Act we 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

Please state how many dogs were reported as stolen in your area in 2020?

Answer

There were 41 recorded offences of burglary, robbery and theft where a dog was classified as stolen in 2020. Each offence may have resulted in more than one dog being stolen.

Request 2

Over the same timeframe, please state how many of these cases were resolved (i.e. the pet was returned to its owner):

Answer

Of the above offences, there were 2 where property described as 'dog' was additionally classified as 'Recovered by Police' or 'Recovered by owner'.

Request 3

If possible, please state the three most commonly stolen breeds of dog and the number of each taken, in 2020'.

Answer

The following table provides the number of offences where the three most popular breeds of dog were classified as stolen. Each offence may have resulted in more than one dog of the named breed being stolen. Therefore the total number of stolen dogs of a particular breed may be higher than the number of offences listed below.

Breed	Number of Offences where breed was classified as 'stolen'
Staffordshire bull terrier	10
Collie	5
Bulldog	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 Corporate Information Branch, 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 Corporate Information Branch, 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.