

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2021-00255

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Incidents under Malicious Damage & Theft Act

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

For both of the following periods, please state how many cases your region had that were investigated related to the "Malicious Damage Act 1861" in a property:

- 2019
- 2020

Answer

Sections of the Malicious Damage Act 1861 have been repealed, the remaining sections of the Malicious Damage Act 1861 are:

- S. 35 and 36 relates to railways, engines or carriageways
- S. 58 relates to Malice against owner of property unnecessary.
- S. 72 relates to Offences committed within the jurisdiction of the Admiralty.

In relation to the Malicious Damage legislation requested, only offences relating to Railways were identified and there are no recorded offences.

Request 2

For both of the following periods, please state how many cases your region had that were investigated related to the "Theft Act 1968: Section 13 (for abstraction of electricity)":

- 2019
- 2020

Answer

There were 67 offences recorded in the crime classification *43 Abstracting Electricity* during 2019 and 37 offences recorded during 2020 (relevant legislation is the Theft Act (Northern Ireland) 1969 Section 13).

Figures for each financial year 1998/99 to 2019/20 for this classification are published in Table 2.2 in the spreadsheet accompanying the Recorded Crime Annual Trends publication and can be accessed

via the link provide below:

(<https://www.psnipolice.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/police-recorded-crime-statistics/>).

Request 3

For both of the following periods, please state how many investigations within your region related to the "Theft Act 1968: Section 13 (for abstraction of electricity)" were suspected to be for the cultivation or manufacture of illegal drugs:

- 2019
- 2020

Answer

Based on the figures identified in Request 2, there were indications of the illegal cultivation or manufacture of drugs in 23 of the 67 offences recorded during 2019 and in 12 of the 37 offences recorded during 2020.

Figures in the current financial year from April 2020 are provisional and subject to change.

Please note: There is no structured data field on PSNI Niche database to indicate that an occurrence has been investigated. Data has been provided on the assumption that if an occurrence has a relevant offence linked, then it can be presumed to have been investigated to some degree.

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.psnipolice.uk

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.