

Keeping People Safe



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2021-00662

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Car Theft & Traffic Collisions

### 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.

As per your previous email dated 26/3/2021, your original request has been replaced and the following information is provided.

### Request 1

Please provide monthly figures from March 2019 to February 2021 (or if it's easier total figures for the 12 month period March 19 to Feb 20 and then the same for March 20 to February 21), for the following, the number of vehicle thefts.

### Answer

There were 1,302 offences of theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle recorded between March 2019 and February 2020 and 1,004 recorded between March 2020 and February 2021.

***Please note that figures from April 2020 are provisional and will be subject to change.***

Please see table below:

|     | Mar'19-<br>Feb'20 | Mar'20-<br>Feb'21 |
|-----|-------------------|-------------------|
| Mar | 121               | 93                |
| Apr | 133               | 85                |
| May | 117               | 85                |
| Jun | 106               | 81                |
| Jul | 139               | 92                |
| Aug | 89                | 64                |
| Sep | 99                | 81                |
| Oct | 97                | 87                |
| Nov | 124               | 97                |
| Dec | 90                | 75                |

|       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|
| Jan   | 86    | 82    |
| Feb   | 101   | 82    |
| Total | 1,302 | 1,004 |

**Request 2**

The number of reported traffic accidents.

**Request 3**

The number of casualties of all severities in reported road traffic accidents.

**Request 4**

The number of fatalities in reported road traffic accidents.

**Request 5**

The total number of serious injuries in reported road traffic accidents. I want to look at numbers during the period when the country went into lockdown for the first time - March 2020 and for the 12 months up to end of February 2021, and then compare this total with the total for the previous 12 month period (March 2019 to February 2020).

**Answer**

In relation to Requests 2 – 5, please see the Excel spreadsheet attached separately to this correspondence. Data provided details the number of casualties and collisions by month, as requested, for the periods specified. Data for January and February 2021 is intended for future publication and the following explanation is provided.

Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states that fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

The exemption, as well as the factors the Department considered when deciding where the public interest lies, are listed below:

**Section 22 – Information Intended for Future Publication**

The full text of exemptions can be found at [www.legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk) and further guidance on how they operate can be located on the Information Commissioners Office website [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk).

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 it has been decided to refuse access to part of the information you have requested. Under Section 22 (1) of the Act the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) is not obliged to disclose information that is held with a view to its publication at some future date.

Data for January and February 2021 is not currently available and will be first released as part of the Police Recorded Injury Road Traffic Collisions and Casualties Statistics report for 2020/21.

Section 22 is a qualified exemption so therefore the PSNI is obliged to carry out a Public Interest Test.

**Public Interest Test****Factors Favouring Release**

Disclosure would demonstrate PSNI's openness and transparency.

### Factors Favouring Retention

The spending of additional funds in order to facilitate this FOI request would not be in the public interest as this information is due to be released in the near future.

### **Decision**

There needs to be a real and valid reason which identifies a tangible benefit to the public from disclosure of information. As the information is intended to be published at a future date, it is reasonable to exempt it as publication is imminent.

The link below can be used to access our publication schedule. The publication schedule will be updated to reflect the release date for the 2020/21 publication, due for release in the summer of 2021.

<https://www.psnipolice.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/>

Additional information related to police recorded injury road traffic collisions and casualties can be found by following the link below:

<https://www.psnipolice.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/road-traffic-collision-statistics>

***Please note that the statistics include those collisions which involve injury and have been reported to the PSNI. Statistics branch do not collect data on damage only collisions.***

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](mailto: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](http://www.psnipolice.uk)

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