



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2020-01601

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Crimes in Churches or on Church Property

### 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 incidents have been reported to your force of thefts being carried out in Churches or on church property from July 2019-to as close to present as possible?

#### Request 2

If possible please could you clarify how many of the thefts recorded relate to lead being taken from the church roof?

#### Request 3

How many incidents have been reported to your force of vandalism being carried out on Churches/church property from July 2019 to as close to present as possible?

#### Request 4

How many incidents have been reported to your force of physical/ violent assaults being carried out in Churches or on church property from July 2019 -to as close to present as possible?

Note- If it is the case that 'church' is not logged as a location, please do include search to contain log of 'religious building/s'.

#### Answers 1 - 4

The following table is based on all recorded offences where the 'modus operandi\_location\_subtype' field contained 'church/religious building' or 'churchyard for the period 1 July 2019 - 30 June 2020.

Recorded Offence	Total Number
Burglary, Robbery or Theft offences carried out on church property	119

<i>Of which 'Lead' was recorded as stolen from roof of church property</i>	4
Criminal Damage offences carried out on church property	127
Violence Against the Person Offences carried out on church property	30
<i>Violence with injury</i>	8
<i>Violence without injury</i>	12
<i>Harassment</i>	10

Violence against the person offences consist of 'Violence with injury', 'Violence without injury' and 'Harassment'.

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](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.