

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2021-01616

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Thefts in Care Homes

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.

I am looking for information about reported thefts in care homes. For the purposes of searches, care homes should be taken to include facilities including nursing and residential homes for elderly people but also homes that look after adults with learning disabilities.

Please could you provide me with the following:

Request 1

How many thefts have been reported to the police in care homes over the last three and a half calendar years (up to and including June 2021)?

Please could you break this information down year by year (2018, 2019, 2020 and the first six months of 2021) and, if possible, month-by-month.

Request 2

In each case where a theft has been reported, please could you state what was stolen - what type of item, money etc. - and the value, if recorded, of what was reported stolen, as well as a date for when it was reported stolen?

Please could you also state the age and the gender of the alleged victim in each case?

For each year, please could you provide a total for the value of items/money reported stolen was. I would be grateful if this information could be provided in list form: date, what was stolen/value, age/gender of victim.

Answer

In response to your request, please see attached Excel Spreadsheet labelled 'Thefts in Care Homes 2018-2021' under tab 1.

Request 3

In each case where a theft has been reported, please could you detail whether an individual was charged with a crime/if they were convicted or cleared.

If possible, please can detail whether the person charged with the theft was an employee of the care home or not - the latter can be categorised as "other".

Answer

In response to your request, please see attached Excel Spreadsheet labelled 'Thefts in Care Homes 2018-2021' under tab 2.

This data is based on 398 offences, and not just offences where property was additionally classified as stolen.

Please note:

The information provided in this spreadsheet is based on all recorded burglary, robbery and theft offences where the location was described as 'nursing home' or 'care establishment other', during the period 1st January 2018 - 30th June 2021. The 'nursing home' and 'care establishment other' location subtypes indicate that an offence occurred at or within the vicinity of the premises. Therefore the offence may have occurred outside of the premises. Figures provided include all victims of burglary, robbery and theft offences which took place in a location described as a 'nursing home' or 'care establishment', including where the facility itself (as a business) is the victim.

A data file based on the above offences where property was classified as 'stolen' has been provided in response to question 2. As this data is based on offences where property was classified as stolen, the number of offences in each year will not match the number of offences presented in the response to question 1.

Crimes where the 'Age' and 'Gender' fields contain 'NOT APPLICABLE' relate to offences where the victim was the business itself, rather than an individual. A unique reference number has been assigned to each offence, as some offences involved multiple stolen items of property. Information on the type of property stolen can be found in the 'Property Type', 'Property Description 1', 'Property Description 2', 'Make', 'Model', 'Common Name' and 'Remarks' fields. Information on the value of property stolen may be available in a combination of the 'Original Value', 'Current Value', 'Quantity' and 'Remarks' fields.

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 remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, 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', or use the ICO self-service portal available at www.ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/officialinformation-concerns-report/official-information-concern/

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 their discretion.

Please be advised that PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ www.psnj.police.uk

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