

Keeping People Safe



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2020-02072

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Animal Thefts 2015-2020

### 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

For each of the following years (2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 so far), please outline how many reports were made of animals being stolen. Please break this figure down by:

- Type of animal e.g. dog, cat, sheep, cow etc
- Breed of animal e.g. if dog was it a Border Collie, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, or if it was a cat, was it a Persian cat, British Shorthair etc.
- Part of Northern Ireland from where the animal was reported as being stolen
- Whether the animal was reported as returned

#### Request 2

For each of the following years (2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 so far), please outline the number of total animal theft related crimes

- Type of animal reported as stolen e.g. dog, cat, sheep, cow etc
- Breed of animal e.g. if dog was it a Border Collie, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, or if it was a cat, was it a Persian cat, British Shorthair etc.
- Part of Northern Ireland from where the animal was reported as being stolen
- What was the outcome (e.g. sanction, evidential difficulties etc) of these recorded animal theft related crimes

#### Answer

Please see the separate attached Excel spreadsheet providing the information for Request 1 and Request 2.

**Please note:** Prior to 2019 animals were recorded in the property description 1 under the 'property type' of 'General property'.

In 2019 a 'property type' of 'Animal' was added to the PSNI computer system Niche. Property description 1 now has the option to record the breed; previously the breed was recorded under the make, model, common name or remarks field. The Record Owner has provided all of the fields where the breed information may be recorded. The sublevels below this category are blank. The Record

Owner has included all property from the top level 'Animal' property type as 'No further description provided' in the spreadsheet provided.

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.