



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2022-02074

Keyword: Crime/Incident Statistics Theft and Burglary

Subject: Burglaries in Belfast

Request and Answer:

Request

I would like to know how many burglaries were reported in the following neighbourhoods: Belfast;

- Botanic Avenue (BT7)
- Holylands (BT7)
- Stranmilis (BT9)

I would like the information from the last 5 years broken down by month. Let me know if you require any more information.

Answer

Your request for information has now been considered and the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) is not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

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 the applicant with a notice which:

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

The following exemption has been applied:

Section 21 - Information Reasonably Accessible by Other Means

The information you requested can be located on the crime map on the "Police.UK" website for the most recent 36 months.

This provides street level information on the number of anti-social behaviour incidents and offences (including burglary) on a monthly basis. For convenience I have provided a link to the website below:

[Police Service of Northern Ireland | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](http://www.police.uk)

As way of an example, 'Lisburn Road' , which includes BT7 and BT9 can be found using the following link:

<https://www.police.uk/pu/your-area/police-service-of-northern-ireland/lisburn-road/>

Using the map, you may be able to get information for the exact areas you are interested in. The map itself covers the most recent 36 months. (Data is updated monthly). A breakdown by offence classification can be seen by hovering over each 'hotspot'/grey circle on the map – this will be displayed in the right hand pane, below the drop down menus for crime type and month. Each 'hotspot' can then be interrogated further by clicking on it.

Furthermore, the data archive contains all data submitted by PSNI, which would cover the remainder of the time period requested. For convenience we have provided a link to the website below:

Data archive: <https://data.police.uk/data/>

Please note: Stranmilis is a Ward, but 'Botanic Avenue' and the 'Holylands' are not geographies held on the police system. Therefore, without a specific postcode, PSNI are unable to provide information on the number of burglaries in these areas.

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 email.

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.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.psni.police.uk

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