



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** FOI-2021-02106

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Tool Thefts From Vehicles in Belfast

### 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

I am requesting information in relation to tool thefts from vehicles in Belfast over the last five years (1st September 2016 - Current Date, 8th September 2021)

How many crimes of theft from a vehicle, classed as 'van' or 'light commercial vehicle', where 'tools', 'tool', 'tools power' or 'tools sundry' were recorded as stolen has there been in the last five years (1st September 2016 - Current Date, 8th September 2021) - across the annual year and broken down by month.

#### Request 2

How many of these cases resulted in a police charge?

#### Request 3

How many of these cases resulted in tools being 'recovered' or 'returned to owner'?

#### Request 4

Please also specify which tools were declared as stolen if possible.

### Answers

Please see the separate Spreadsheet titled, 'Tool Thefts from Vehicles in Belfast 2016-2021' which provides the information requested. To assist please see below further clarity regarding the data provided.

The tables provided are based on all recorded 'Theft from a vehicle' offences where a vehicle was classed as 'van' and where property described as 'Machinery or tools' was classified as 'stolen', during the period September 2016 – August 2021.

The second table addresses your request numbers 2 and 3; for request number 2 we have provided the number of offences meeting the above criteria where the outcome is 'charged/summonsed', and for request number 3 we have provided the number of offences where property classified as stolen

was also classified as 'recovered by police' or 'recovered by owner'.

In your request you specified a number of terms to use, but some of these are not present on the database. There is no category for 'light commercial vehicle' in the vehicle classification field, and tools fall under the description 'Machinery and Tools'.

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 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/](http://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](http://www.psnj.police.uk)

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