

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: FOI-2020-02123

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Domestic Burglaries

Request and Answer:

Request 1

Please could you tell me how many domestic burglaries were reported to the police in your area in 2019? With a monthly breakdown?

Request 2

Please could you tell me how many domestic burglaries were reported to the police in 2020 (so far) in your area? With a monthly breakdown?

Answers

Your request for information has 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 PSNI, 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 exemptions, as well as the factors the department considered when deciding where the public interest lies, are listed below:

Section 21 - Information Reasonably Accessible by Other Means

Section 22 – Information intended for future publication

The full text of exemptions can be found at www.legislation.gov.uk and further guidance on how they operate can be located on the Information Commissioners Office website www.ico.org.uk.

The number of domestic burglaries reported to Police during the listed period is available on the PSNI website and for convenience I have provided a link to the website below:

<https://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/police-recorded-crime-statistics/>

Currently the monthly update period ends on the 30th September 2020 and is in the format of an excel spreadsheet.

The Pivot Table (Crime) contains figures for burglary-residential for each month between October 2018 and September 2020.

With reference to the information requested for the remainder of 2020, the following exemption has been applied.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 it has been decided to refuse access to the information you have requested. Under Section 22 (1) of the Act the PSNI is not obliged to disclose information that is held with a view to its publication at some future date.

The next monthly update for domestic burglaries up to the 31st October 2020 will be published on 26th November 2020, with the pivot table covering the months November 2018 to October 2020.

Section 22 is a qualified exemption so therefore the PSNI is obliged to carry out a Public Interest Test.

Public Interest Test

Factors Favouring Release

Disclosure would demonstrate PSNI's openness and transparency.

Factors Favouring Retention

The spending of additional funds in order to facilitate this FOI request would not be in the public interest as this information is due to be released in the very near future.

Decision

There needs to be a real and valid reason which identifies a tangible benefit to the public from disclosure of information. As the information is intended to be published on a future date, it is reasonable to exempt it as publication is imminent.

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.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.psni.police.uk

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