



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2022-02155

Keyword: Crime/Incident Statistics Theft and Burglary

Subject: Pet theft 2017-2022

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

I am writing to request the number of stolen pets in your jurisdiction. I am requesting the number of thefts be broken down:

- a) By specific breed
- b) Over the last five years, by calendar year (2017-2022).

Request 2

If possible, I am requesting to know the average cost of each theft.

Answers

Please see the information provided in the accompanying spreadsheet. 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.

Please note: It should be noted in conjunction with the data provided that the data is based on all recorded burglary, robbery and theft offences where property classified as 'stolen' was described as 'dog', or 'cat', 'horse', 'rabbit', 'birds', 'fish', 'reptiles' or 'tortoise' for the period 1 January 2017 - 31 July 2022.

The accompanying spreadsheet is based on all recorded burglary, robbery and theft offences where property classified as 'stolen' and has been assigned a unique ID. Additional information on the breed of the animal may be found in the 'Property Description' fields, or any of the free text entry fields 'Make', 'Model', and 'Remarks'. These fields are not complete, and nor are they consistently entered. Where a cell is blank this is because the source data did not contain any information. A quantity value of '0' may also indicate that no data was input. Therefore, in response to Request 2, we are unable to provide an average cost of each theft as the figures would not be accurate.

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.psni.police.uk

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