



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2021-02655

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Wildlife Crimes

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 would like to request, under Freedom of Information legislation, your statistics for the number of Wildlife Crime reports received by PSNI in the last five years to date.

Answer

Date	Statistics
2017	213
2018	170
2019 * (up to & including 31/5/19)	90
2020 * (up to & including 30/6/2020)	95
2021 (up to & including 30/9/2021)	166

**Due to change in software*

Please note that statistics are subject to change and dependent on the accuracy of input onto the recording system.

Request 2

Under the same legislation I also request that PSNI reveal the percentage of Wildlife Crimes which have resulted in prosecutions.

Answer

0.13%

This information is based on data extracted from a live crime recording 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.

Information relating to convictions and prosecutions is provided by NI Courts Service and the Public Prosecution Service to PSNI for information purposes only and may not be wholly accurate. For accurate figures the relevant information should be sought from either NI Courts or PPS directly.

Request 3

I also request information on what training NI police officers receive in investigating Wildlife Crime.

Answer

Until the Covid-19 pandemic, all Police Officers received training (at probationary stages*) on animal welfare and wildlife crime. Reports of wildlife crimes are investigated in the same manner as any other crime within PSNI. The training for Police Officers consists of a two hour package of various offences, legislation, short films and initiatives. Wildlife department contact details are also provided to Police Officers in order to seek additional advice and guidance when required.

PSNI have an extensive intranet and internet site to assist both officers and members of the public who wish to report a suspected wildlife crime.

**Probationer training is currently under review as is the current wildlife training*.*

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.