



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2021-02797

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Illegal Dumping

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

How many incidents of illegal dumping of rubbish (also commonly known as fly dumping or fly tipping) occurred within the jurisdiction of your force’s authority last year (i.e. 2020)?

Request 2

How many incidents of illegal dumping of rubbish (also commonly known as fly dumping or fly tipping) occurred within the jurisdiction of your force’s authority have occurred since the beginning of 2021?

Answers 1 and 2

Please see in the table below outlining the response for Requests 1 and 2. Please note that for 2021, the data is collated from 01/01/21 to 14/12/21;

Year	Number of occurrences with relevant offences linked
2020	19
2021	10

However it should be noted that this information is limited to incidents recorded under the category ‘Anti – Social Behaviour (ASB) environment’. Therefore there may be other incidents which fall outside of this search criteria, and to facilitate this search would be in excess of the FOI legislative cost of 18 hours.

Request 3

How many arrests were made by your police force for illegal dumping of rubbish (also commonly

known as fly dumping or fly tipping) last year (i.e. 2020)?

Request 4

How many arrests were made by your police force for illegal dumping of rubbish (also commonly known as fly dumping or fly tipping) since the beginning of 2021?

Answers 3 and 4

Please see table below in response to Request numbers 3 and 4, (where a person was arrested and processed through custody for one or more relevant offences) for 2020 or during the period 01/01/21 to 30/11/21;

Year	Number of custody records
2020	0
2021	0

Please note the following in conjunction with the information provided in the responses :

- 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.
- It should also be noted that any data entered into the Niche System cannot be protected against any input errors which may influence these figures.
- When police receive a call regarding illegal dumping, the reporting person would be referred to their Local Council and these calls may not be recorded on police systems.
- The offence codes reviewed are as follows:
Unlawful Deposit of Waste. SB5017250
Causing Material to be Deposited on a Road SB5016043
Not Adhering to an Article 20 Notice to obtain Information SB5116148
Discard Litter SB5121044

In addition the information provided below may also be of assistance:

The main powers of the authorities dealing with fly-tipping are held in the [Waste and Contaminated Land \(Northern Ireland\) Order 1997](#), Article 5, the [Pollution Control and Local Government \(Northern Ireland\) Order 1978](#), Article 5

The Controlled Waste (Registration of Carriers and Seizure of Vehicles) Regulations (NI) 1999 provides for seizure of vehicles involved in fly-tipping.

Any instances of fly-tipping can be reported directly to the local council; however the Northern Ireland Environment Agency is the authority responsible for prosecuting regarding 'fly-tipping' offences.

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 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.