



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2022-2524

Keyword: Crime/Incident Statistics Other and Multiple Crime/Incident types

Subject: Badger Persecution & Badger Baiting

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

Please provide the total number of reported badger persecution crimes for each year;

2019

2020

2021

The clearance rates for these offences would also be useful.

Request 2

Please provide the total number of reported badger baiting crimes for each year;

2019

2020

2021

The clearance rates for these offences would also be useful.

Request 3

The number of potential badger persecution incidents reported to and logged by PSNI by each county for each of the following years:

2019

2020

2021

Request 4

The frequency of various badger incidents per month within Northern Ireland during 2019-2021. It is requested that they be broken down by the following:

Sett Disturbance

Badger Baiting

The trapping or snaring of badgers

Poisoning of Badgers

Shooting of Badgers

Answer to Requests 1-4

Please find under details of all reported badger related incidents, broken down by year, reported date, County location and nature of the report where recorded by PSNI

The legislation relevant to this type of crime is:

- The Wildlife Order (Northern Ireland) 1985 as amended by the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act 2011.

PSNI can advise that Badgers and their Setts are protected as per the Wildlife (NI) Order 1985. Section 10(4) which states the following:

(4) Subject to the provisions of this Part, if any person intentionally or recklessly —
(a) damages or destroys, or obstructs access to, any structure or place which any wild animal included in Schedule 5 uses for shelter or protection;
(b) damages or destroys anything which conceals or protects any such structure; or
(c) disturbs any such animal while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection,
he shall be guilty of an offence

Complete information on convictions should be available from the Northern Ireland Courts Service

Please note

“SUSP” in the table under is “suspected”

<u>DATE</u>	<u>INCIDENT TYPE</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>
04/01/2019	SUSP BADGER BAITING	DOWN
05/01/2019	SUSP BADGER BAITING	FERMANAGH
06/01/2019	SUSP BADGER BAITING	DOWN
17/01/2019	SETT DISTURBANCE	DOWN
26/01/2019	INJURED NO SUSPICION	DOWN
28/01/2019	INJURED NO SUSPICION	ANTRIM
28/01/2019	INJURED NO SUSPICION	ANTRIM
31/01/2019	INJURED NO SUSPICION	ANTRIM
31/01/2019	SETT DISTURBANCE	LONDONDERRY
04/02/2019	SUSP BADGER BAITING	DOWN
08/02/2019	INJURED NO SUSPICION	DOWN
09/02/2019	INJURED NO SUSPICION	ARMAGH
10/02/2019	SUSP BADGER BAITING	TYRONE
10/02/2019	SUSP BADGER BAITING	ANTRIM
11/02/2019	INJURED NO SUSPICION	MOTORWAY
13/02/2019	SETT DISTURBANCE	DOWN
16/02/2019	INJURED NO SUSPICION	MOTORWAY
18/02/2019	SETT DISTURBANCE	ANTRIM
19/02/2019	SUSP BADGER BAITING	LONDONDERRY
19/02/2019	INJURED NO SUSPICION	DOWN
19/02/2019	INJURED NO SUSPICION	DOWN
21/02/2019	INJURED NO SUSPICION	ANTRIM
23/02/2019	SUSP BADGER BAITING	DOWN
25/02/2019	INJURED NO SUSPICION	MOTORWAY
26/02/2019	SUSP BADGER BAITING	DOWN
01/03/2019	SUSP BADGER BAITING	DOWN

03/03/2019	SETT DISTURBANCE	ANTRIM
04/03/2019	SUSP BADGER BAITING	LONDONDERRY
08/03/2019	SETT DISTURBANCE	DOWN
12/03/2019	SETT DISTURBANCE	LONDONDERRY
20/03/2019	TRAPS/SNARES	DOWN
22/03/2019	SETT DISTURBANCE	ANTRIM
25/03/2019	INJURED NO SUSPICION	DOWN
29/03/2019	INJURED NO SUSPICION	ANTRIM
31/03/2019	TRAPS/SNARES	ANTRIM
08/04/2019	INJURED NO SUSPICION	ANTRIM
11/04/2019	SUSP BADGER BAITING	DOWN
12/04/2019	INJURED NO SUSPICION	DOWN
14/04/2019	INJURED NO SUSPICION	MOTORWAY
17/04/2019	INJURED NO SUSPICION	MOTORWAY
21/04/2019	INJURED NO SUSPICION	ANTRIM
08/05/2019	SUSP BADGER BAITING	TYRONE
09/05/2019	TRAPS/SNARES	ANTRIM
10/05/2019	SETT DISTURBANCE	ANTRIM
19/05/2019	INJURED NO SUSPICION	ARMAGH
23/05/2019	INJURED NO SUSPICION	DOWN
29/05/2019	TB	LONDONDERRY
06/11/2019	INJURED NO SUSPICION	LONDONDERRY
01/12/2019	SHOT	ARMAGH

15/01/2020	SUSP BADGER BAITING	ARMAGH
16/01/2020	SETT DISTURBANCE	ANTRIM
24/01/2020	SUSP BADGER BAITING	DOWN
05/02/2020	SETT DISTURBANCE	DOWN
07/02/2020	SETT DISTURBANCE	DOWN
10/02/2020	SETT DISTURBANCE	DOWN
17/02/2020	SETT DISTURBANCE	DOWN
25/02/2020	SETT DISTURBANCE	ANTRIM
05/03/2020	SETT DISTURBANCE	ANTRIM
24/03/2020	TRAPS/SNARES	FERMANAGH
26/03/2020	TRAPS/SNARES	DOWN
30/03/2020	TRAPS/SNARES	TYRONE
31/03/2020	SUSP BADGER BAITING	LONDONDERRY
01/04/2020	SETT DISTURBANCE	ANTRIM
09/04/2020	TRAPS/SNARES	ANTRIM
16/04/2020	SETT DISTURBANCE	LONDONDERRY
12/05/2020	TOO DECOMPOSED	DOWN
13/05/2020	SETT DISTURBANCE	DOWN
25/05/2020	SUSP POISONED	DOWN
11/06/2020	SETT DISTURBANCE	LONDONDERRY

09/01/2021	SUSP BADGER BAITING	DOWN
14/01/2021	SETT DISTURBANCE	ANTRIM
19/01/2021	SETT DISTURBANCE	ANTRIM
24/01/2021	SUSP BADGER BAITING	DOWN
02/02/2021	INJURED NO SUSPICION	DOWN
22/02/2021	SUSP BADGER BAITING	TYRONE
03/03/2021	SETT DISTURBANCE	TYRONE
09/03/2021	SETT DISTURBANCE	ANTRIM
10/03/2021	SETT DISTURBANCE	DOWN

19/03/2021	TRAPS/SNARES	ANTRIM
22/03/2021	SUSP POISONING	ANTRIM
28/03/2021	SETT DISTURBANCE	ANTRIM
04/04/2021	SUSP BADGER BAITING	ANTRIM
08/04/2022	SETT DISTURBANCE	FERMANAGH
12/04/2021	SETT DISTURBANCE	ANTRIM
27/04/2021	SETT DISTURBANCE	ANTRIM
30/04/2021	SETT DISTURBANCE	ANTRIM
01/05/2021	SETT DISTURBANCE	DOWN
15/05/2021	SETT DISTURBANCE	FERMANAGH
23/05/2012	INJURED NO SUSPICION	DOWN
28/05/2021	INJURED NO SUSPICION	TYRONE
01/06/2021	SUSP BADGER BAITING	FERMANAGH
16/06/2021	INJURED NO SUSPICION	ANTRIM
03/07/2021	INJURED SUSPICION	ANTRIM
13/07/2021	INJURED NO SUSPICION	LONDONDERRY
22/07/2021	SETT DISTURBANCE	LONDONDERRY
23/07/2021	SETT DISTURBANCE	ARMAGH
25/07/2021	SUSP BADGER BAITING	ANTRIM
30/07/2021	INJURED NO SUSPICION	DOWN
23/08/2021	INJURED NO SUSPICION	DOWN
25/08/2021	SUSP BADGER BAITING	ANTRIM
31/08/2021	SUSP POISONING	DOWN
02/09/2021	SETT DISTURBANCE	ANTRIM
05/09/2021	INJURED NO SUSPICION	MOTORWAY
06/09/2021	SETT DISTURBANCE	DOWN
18/09/2021	SETT DISTURBANCE	DOWN
20/09/2021	SETT DISTURBANCE	ANTRIM
22/09/2021	SETT DISTURBANCE	ANTRIM
05/10/2021	SETT DISTURBANCE	DOWN
11/10/2021	SUSP BADGER BAITING	ANTRIM
23/10/2021	SUSP BADGER BAITING	DOWN
31/10/2021	SETT DISTURBANCE	DOWN
07/11/2021	SUSP BADGER BAITING	DOWN
09/11/2021	SETT DISTURBANCE	DOWN
21/11/2021	SUSP BADGER BAITING	TYRONE
05/12/2021	SUSP BADGER BAITING	ARMAGH
10/12/2021	INJURED NO SUSPICION	DOWN
18/12/2021	SUSP BADGER BAITING	LONDONDERRY
18/12/2021	SUSP BADGER BAITING	ANTRIM
26/12/2021	SUSP BADGER BAITING	ARMAGH
29/12/2021	SUSP BADGER BAITING	ANTRIM

Please note

These figures are operational and therefore subject to change they are also dependant on how the call has been logged as they are not required by home office guidelines and statistics are gathered locally.

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 Corporate Information Manager, Corporate Information Branch, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing foi@psni.police.uk.

If, following an Internal Review carried out by an independent decision maker, you remain unhappy about how your request has been handled you have the right to apply in writing to the Information Commissioner, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, at 'Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. There are a number of other platforms you can use to contact the ICO and these can be found on the ICO's website at the following link: [Make a complaint | ICO \(https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/\)](https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/).

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.