



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2022-02915

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

Subject: Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

Request and Answer:

Request 1

How many dogs were seized by your Police Force under S1 and S3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 (DDA) in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021?

Request 2

Of the dogs seized under the DDA, how many were euthanized in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021?

Request 3

What was the average time taken from the date of seizure to complete a prosecution under section 1 of the DDA in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021?

Request 4

What was the average time taken from the date of seizure to complete a prosecution under section 3 of the DDA in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021?

Request 5

What was the average time taken from the date of seizure to complete a prosecution under section 4a of the DDA in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021?

Request 6

What was the average time taken from the date of seizure to complete a prosecution under section 4b of the DDA in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021?

Request 7

What was the total cost spent on kennelling dogs seized and detained under S1 and S3 of the DDA in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021?

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 not hold information in relation to your Requests. Enquiries made in relation to your request failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided.

The Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 does not apply to Northern Ireland, with the exception of S.8 which makes provision for corresponding legislation to be made here. That corresponding legislation is The Dangerous Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 and is enforced by district councils. Police do not have any powers conferred by this Order.

Please see the links provided below:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/1991/2292/contents/made> which also amends The Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/1983/764/contents>. Statistics Branch has advised that offences within this legislation (Dangerous Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1991) are not included in PSNI crime statistics.

Statistic Branch also advise to contact with The Animal Welfare Organisation Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals regarding above.

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.