



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2023-00471

Keyword: Crime/Incident Statistics Theft and Burglary

Subject: Shoplifting Offences

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 (PSNI) does hold information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

*Previous request taken from **F-2023-00087** - I am writing to request the number of charges and summons for shoplifting offences recorded by your force, and the number of these that ended in a successful prosecution.*

Request

Could you provide the information requested without the data on convictions, so merely the number of charges/summons issued?

Clarification Sent To Requester;

PSNI explained in request number **F-2023-00087** that we are unable to provide the information you requested within cost as it would require a manual trawl. To enable the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) to meet your new request could you please provide further clarification on the following;

- Are you requesting the number of charges/summons issued by PSNI 2018 to 2022 (*i.e. a count of each charge/summons issued, regardless of the number of crimes recorded*)? PSNI can provide the number of charges where the charge date is between 2018 and 2022.
- Or, are you requesting the number of shoplifting offences recorded by PSNI and the number since given an outcome of charge/summons. (*Please Note; However crime outcomes show the action taken in relation to each crime recorded. This is regardless of the number of suspects identified in relation to each crime. Therefore these figures cannot be used to represent the number of charges or summonses issued.*)

Clarification Received From Requester:

Please can you provide me with both "the number of charges/summons issued by PSNI 2018 to 2022" and "the number of shoplifting offences recorded by PSNI" during the same period.

Answer

Please see the tables provided below.

Table 1

Number of custody records resulting in at least one charge for shoplifting, where date of charge falls within calendar years 2018 to 2022.	
Year	Number of Custody Records
2018	219
2019	181
2020	111
2021	108
2022	163

Table 2

Number of shoplifting offences recorded by the police, 2018 to 2022.	
Year	Number of Shoplifting Offences Recorded
2018	6,419
2019	6,559
2020	5,167
2021	4,817
2022	6,823

Please note; Figures falling within the current financial year 2022/2023 are provisional and subject to change.

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.psnipolice.uk

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