



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2023-01119

**Keyword:** Crime/Incident Statistics Arrests/Detainees/Outcomes

**Subject:** Possession of Illegal Dogs

### 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 some information to which your request relates and this is being provided to you. We do not however hold information in relation to request numbers 1, 2 and 3 in some parts.

#### Request 1

Please disclose details of the figures and details of reports and cases your force has dealt with year by year from 2019-2023 for:  
Firstly, the possession of illegal dogs;

#### Answer

No information is held in regard to this request as this is the remit of the councils.

#### Request 2

Secondly, dog attacks.

#### Answer

**2019:** Total of 173, up to and including 31/5/19 (due to a change in software):

January – 36  
February – 30  
March – 27  
April – 53  
May – 27

**2020:** Total of 35, up to and including 30/6/20 (due to a change in software):

January – 6  
February – 4  
March – 6  
April – 5  
May – 6  
June – 8

**2021:** Total of 466:

January – 36  
February – 29  
March – 43  
April – 35  
May – 37  
June – 38  
July – 53  
August – 42  
September – 37  
October – 22  
November – 50  
December – 44

**2022:** Total of 305 up to 12/7/22 (due to a change in software):

January – 35  
February – 31  
March – 44  
April – 64  
May – 66  
June – 47  
July – 18

Please note we do not hold statistics for 2023 as there are not a recordable offence through the Home Office and are held locally and are subject to change.

The council Dog Warden is responsible for enforcing offences under the Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 as amended to the Dangerous Dog (Northern Ireland) Order 1991.

Please see the following link in relation to statistics published by Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) which includes a breakdown of dog attacks on persons including investigations, prosecutions and convictions. <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/council-dog-summary-statistics>

### **Request 3**

Please state the year, the breed of dog (if known) and the outcome of the report/case.

### **Answer**

The PSNI do not hold information in regards to this request.

The full text of exemptions can be found at [www.legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk) and further guidance on how they operate can be located on the Information Commissioners Office website [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk).

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](mailto: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](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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