



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2023-01709

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

Subject: Out-of-control Dog Offences and Dogs Seized

Request and Answer:

As a freedom of information request, please provide monthly and annual totals from 2018 up until the most current date available at the point of production for the following:

Request 1

The number of times the offences of an out-of-control dog causing injury has been recorded

Request 2

The total number of dogs seized each year

Request 3

The number, seized each year of: a) suspected banned breeds, b) suspected American Bully or 'XL bully' breed

Request 4

The number of dogs seized, split by weight

Request 5

The number of dogs destroyed each year.

Request 6

The number of dogs destroyed each year, with a breakdown, if available of suspected banned breeds and suspected American bully breeds

Please provide such data electronically, ideally as a spreadsheet. If any point of data is not available or would make this request unduly burdensome, please disregard it

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 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 Dog Act 1991 does not apply to Northern Ireland, with the exemption of Section 8

which makes provision for corresponding legislation to be made here. That corresponding legislation is Section 3 of The Dangerous Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 and is enforced by district councils. The PSNI do not have any powers conferred by this Order. Please see the links below:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/1991/2292/contents/>

[http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/1983/764/contents.](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/1983/764/contents)

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/council-dog-summary-statistics>

Accordingly, we have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

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.