

Freedom of Information Request: **2010/367**Response Date: **17/09/2010****2010/367 - Crime Statistics - Thefts from gardens and scrap metal thefts**

In response to your recent request for information;

1) How many incidents of thefts from gardens and scrap metal thefts have been reported over the past three years?

Thefts from Gardens - 01/04/2007 - 31/03/2010

	Flintshire	Wrexham
2007/08	184	265
2008/09	192	293
2009/10	225	269

Recorded Theft of Metal 01/04/2007 - 31/03/2010

	Flintshire	Wrexham
2007/08	39	38
2008/09	80	77
2009/10	64	53

North Wales Police have utilized a number of methods to tackle metal theft including raising the profile of such thefts via the press, more rigorous supervision of scrap metal dealers and various operations conducted in targeting suspected offenders and hot spots.

North Wales Police took part in a day of action against metal theft on the 11th November 2009. North Wales Police worked together with the Environment Agency Wales, visiting Scrap Metal Dealers and carrying out stop searches on suspected illegal waste carriers. Stolen metal was recovered during the operation.

<http://www.north-wales.police.uk/nwpv2/en/yglas/newsDetail.asp?sid=PR768368>

You may find the below link of interest;

<http://www.smartwater.com/Media-Centre/Latest-News-2/February-2009/North-Wales-Custody-suite-unveiled.aspx>

2) What percentage of the crime in the above named areas was committed by Travellers, and what percentage of unsolved crimes were suspected to have been committed by travellers?

Our information is set up and searchable for our policing purposes. 'Traveller' is not recorded on our system as an ethnicity or occupation. We would not be permitted to record 'Traveller' as a person type due to Human Rights. To obtain the information you require would involve manually reviewing each incident in Eastern division to attempt to identify if travellers were involved. The cost of providing you with the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of retrieving the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) regulations 2004.

Therefore, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under section 17 (5) of the legislation.

If this was completed we are reliant on details of travellers being recorded in the working sheets and reports.

Although excess cost removed the forces obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved before the fees limit was exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

3) Does the percentage of crime increase when travellers move into an area?

Please see the answer to question 2.

Police forces recording criteria is set nationally for crime statistics. The systems used for recording these figures are not the same. For these reasons this force's response to your questions should not be used to compare with any other response you may receive.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST UNDER THE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 26/08/2010