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Our ref: AQW 28013/22-27
Date: 18 July 2025

Justin McNulty MLA
Northern Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

Dear Justin,

AQW 28013/22-27 - TO DETAIL (I) HOW MANY INCIDENTS OF VANDALISM HAVE BEEN RECORDED AT ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HERITAGE SITES, IN EACH OF THE LAST FIVE YEARS, BROKEN DOWN BY SITE; AND (II) WHAT ACTION HIS DEPARTMENT IS TAKING TO PROTECT THESE SITES FROM VANDALISM AND CRIMINAL DAMAGE

You recently submitted an Assembly Written Question AQW 28013/22-27 which included a request for information on incidents of vandalism/criminal damage at heritage sites in the last five years.

As outlined in my response to you, due to the large amount of detail required to provide a thorough answer to your question, I have arranged for the information to be placed in the Assembly Library.

Yours sincerely,

Gordon Lyons MLA

Minister for Communities

AQW 28013/22-27 response

1. Incidents that could be viewed as vandalism/criminal damage recorded at historic monuments by Historic Environment Division: April 2021- April 2025.

2021 - A total of 56 incidents were recorded in 2021

Derry City Walls Derry/Londonderry – 27
Giant's Ring, Co Down – 6
Navan Fort, Co Armagh – 2
Grey Point Fort, Co Down – 4
Greyabbey Priory, Co Down – 3
Lissanduff Earthworks, Co Antrim – 1
Portora Castle, Co Fermanagh – 1
Lisnamintry Rath, Co Armagh – 1
Harryville Motte and Bailey, Co Antrim – 1
Springfarm Rath, Co Antrim – 1
Ballymacdermot Court Tomb, Co Armagh – 1
Dundrum Castle, Co Down – 1
Olderfleet castle, Co Antrim – 1
Kinbane Castle, Co Antrim – 1
Mound of Down, Downpatrick – 2
Shandon Motte, Co Down – 2
Castlecaulfield House, Co Tyrone – 1

2022 - A total of 57 incidents were recorded in 2022

Derry City Walls Derry/Londonderry – 33

Giant's Ring, Co Down – 2

Navan Fort, Co Armagh – 1

Grey Point Fort, Co Down – 4

Scrabo Tower, Co Down – 3

Portora Castle, Co Fermanagh – 2

Harryville Motte and Bailey, Co Antrim – 2

Newtownards Priory, Co Down – 1

Struell Wells, Co Down – 2

Drumnadrough Rath, Co Antrim – 1

Benburb Castle, Co Tyrone – 1

Mound of Down, Downpatrick – 2

Shandon Motte, Co Down – 3

2023 - A total of 98 incidents were recorded in 2023

Derry City Walls Derry/Londonderry – 73

Giant's Ring, Co Down – 4

Navan Fort, Co Armagh – 2

Grey Point Fort, Co Down – 2

Old Castle Archdale, Co Fermanagh – 1

Ebrington Fort, Derry/Londonderry – 1

Kirkistown Castle, Co Down – 2

Jordan's Castle, Co Down – 1

Dundrum Castle, Co Down – 1

Benburb Castle, Co Tyrone – 1

Struell Wells, Co Down – 1

Scrabo Tower, Co Down – 1

Drumena Cashel, Co Down – 1

Quoile Castle, Co Down – 1

Mound of Down, Downpatrick – 4

Shandon Motte, Co Down – 1

Castle Balfour, Lisnaskea – 1

2024 - A total of 72 incidents were recorded in 2024

Derry City Walls Derry/Londonderry – 53

Giant's Ring, Co Down – 3

Navan Fort, Co Armagh – 1

Grey Point Fort, Co Down – 3

Tullaghoge Fort and Loughry Wood site, Co Tyrone – 2

Armagh Friary, Co Armagh – 1

Tully Castle, Co Fermanagh – 1

Mahee Castle, Co Down – 1

Ardtole Church Co Down – 1

Ballymacdermot Court Tomb, Co Armagh – 1

Mound of Down, Downpatrick – 2

Castlecaulfield House, Co Tyrone – 1

Bellaghy Bawn, Bellaghy – 1

Castle Balfour, Lisnaskea – 1

2025 (to 31st March) - A total of 11 incidents were recorded in 2025 to date

Derry City Walls Derry/Londonderry – 7

Grey Point Fort, Co Down – 1

Armagh Friary, Co Armagh – 1

Tully Castle, Co Fermanagh – 1

Goward Dolmen, Co Down – 1

2. Illegal Metal Detecting incidents recorded at archaeological sites and historic monuments by Historic Environment Division: April 2021- April 2025

These specific incidents could be viewed as vandalism/criminal damage:

2021 - A total of 2 incidents were recorded in 2021

Giant's Ring, Co Down – 2

2022 - A total of 4 incidents were recorded in 2022

Giant's Ring, Co Down – 3

St. John's Point Church, Co Down – 1

2023 - A total of 3 incidents were recorded in 2023

Giant's Ring, Co Down – 1

Shandon Motte, Co Down – 1

Inch Abbey, Co Down – 1

2024 - A total of 8 incidents were recorded in 2024

Giant's Ring, Co Down – 2

Scrabo Hillfort, Co Down – 1

Dromore Motte and Bailey, Co Down – 1

Monea Castle, Co Fermanagh – 1

Navan Fort, Co Armagh – 1

Nendrum Monastery, Co Down – 2

2025 (to 31st March)

N/A

3. Incidents that could be viewed as vandalism/criminal damage recorded at listed historic buildings by Historic Environment Division: April 2021- April 2025.

2021 - A total of 5 incidents were recorded in 2021

Belfast – 1

Downpatrick – 1

Newry – 1

Lisburn – 2

2022 - A total of 4 incidents were recorded in 2022

Belfast – 1

Antrim – 1

Derry/Londonderry – 1

Craigavon – 1

2023 - A total of 6 incidents were recorded in 2023

Armagh – 1

Ballymoney – 1

Derry/Londonderry – 1

Newry – 1

Belfast – 2

2024 - A total of 5 incidents were recorded in 2024

Belfast – 2

Lisburn – 1

Derry/Londonderry – 1

Carrickfergus – 1

2025 (to 31st March) – 1 incident recorded to that date

Caledon – 1