

## NI's deceased sent 1.5m items of junk mail

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OVER the past 12 months, around 1.5 million items of junk mail have been sent to people in Northern Ireland who have died, a new survey has claimed.

And top of the list of areas which are most affected, according to data management company The REaD Group, is Belfast, where 234,000 items were posted to over the period. Lisburn was second with 93,500 items and in Londonderry, 88,000 letters and other forms of junk mail were sent to deceased residents. The north Down area came fourth in the table, receiving 69,500 items in the past year, and fifth was Ards, with 66,000 items.

The REaD Group also claims that the number of reported cases of identity crime across the UK - involving personal information contained in post being intercepted - has increased by 66 per cent.

"To lose someone close to us is upsetting enough, but to see their identity stolen by criminals is perhaps the ultimate indignity," said The REaD Group's CEO Mark Roy. "While the Ministry of Justice recently ignored Information Commissioner Richard Thomas' calls for tougher sentencing laws for perpetrators of identity and data fraud in favour of unenforceable two-year jail terms, I'm calling on all Northern Ireland householders to join together to help stop this upsetting and insidious crime wave."

Top tips to help fight identity crime:

- Register a deceased loved one with [www.thebereavementregister.org.uk](http://www.thebereavementregister.org.uk) - a free service which removes their names and addresses;
- Register with a junk mail control service such as [www.itsmypost.com](http://www.itsmypost.com) or [www.mpsonline.org.uk](http://www.mpsonline.org.uk);
- Display a 'No Junk Mail' sign on their letterbox or door.

