



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2008-03735

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: TRANSLATION SERVICES AND POLICE OFFICERS CONVICTED OF A CRIMINAL OFFENCE

Request:

Question 1: How much money has the PSNI spent on translation services in the last five years?

Question 2: How many police officers have been convicted of a criminal offence in the last five years and what were they charged with?

Answer:

Although both questions relate to different subjects and would therefore be two separate requests, it has been decided to treat them as one request on this occasion.

I can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information.

I have today decided to:

disclose records relating to question 1 in full;

fully exempt records relating to question 2 pursuant to the provisions of section 21 of the Act - Information Reasonably Accessible By Other Means.

Response to Q1: Please see table in Appendix A below. The Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold any figures prior to 03 / 04 as no service provider had been employed by the PSNI until the following year. There are also no figures held by the Police Service of Northern Ireland or the service provider for the cost of translation for 04 / 05.

Interpretation and translation services have become a vital tool in the fight against, and the investigation of crime, as some members of our community may not speak English as their first language.

In some areas of NI it has been necessary to translate appeals for information about serious crime into various languages. It has also been necessary to use translation services to interview suspects of crime and indeed communicate with victims.

It is vital police officers are able to communicate effectively with all members of our society.

Response to Q2: The information requested in relation to question 2 is already on the **PSNI's Publication Scheme** and is therefore exempt by virtue of Section 21 - Information Reasonably Accessible By Other Means.

The information can be accessed free of charge via www.psnl.police.uk under the headings FREEDOM OF INFORMATION / CLASSES OF INFORMATION / SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC INTEREST CATEGORY / DISCIPLINE.

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 Freedom of Information Team, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this email.

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 Head of Freedom of Information, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing foi@psni.pnn.police.uk.

If following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision maker, you were to remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request you may make a complaint, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the PSNI has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. You can write to the Information Commissioner at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. 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 his discretion.

Please be advised that all PSNI replies under Freedom of Information will be released simultaneously into the public domain via our website @ www.psnl.police.uk.

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

Appendix A

YEAR	Interpretation (Face to Face)	Interpretation (Telephone)	Sign Language	Translation
04 / 05	£ 74,933.70	£ 11,797.23	£11,120.00	Not Held
05 / 06	£ 345,467.50	£ 39,656.86	£10,594.00	£99,507.34
06 / 07	£ 552,476.19	£ 67,657.46	£8,265.00	£327,795.10
07 / 08	£ 613,613.52	£ 64,919.39	£10,730.00	£186,519.17