



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2008-04803

Keyword: Finance

Subject: COMPENSATION FOLLOWING SEARCHES OF PRIVATE PROPERTY

Request:

I would like to know the number of times that compensation has been paid in the 12 months between October 1, 2007 and October 1, 2008.

Question 1 - Damage caused to private residences that were searched using a warrant or under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act, where no charges were brought against the owners;

- a) THE AMOUNT paid in compensation in each instance including a 12 month total; and
- b) Whether the compensation was settled IN OR OUT OF COURT; and
- c) Whether they were for ITEMS or INDIVIDUALS.

Question 2 - Damage caused to private residences that were mistakenly searched using a warrant or under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act, where the address of the alleged offender was incorrect; and

- a) THE AMOUNT paid in compensation in each instance including a 12 month total; and
- b) Whether the compensation was settled IN OR OUT OF COURT; and
- c) Whether they were for ITEMS or INDIVIDUAL

Question 3 - Brief details of each search.

Answer:

The Police Service of Northern Ireland has been able to provide you with the following information:

Answer 1 - The Police Service of Northern Ireland Legal Services has provided the information requested in 1a to 1c in the attached document 0000001762pdf

Answer 2 - The Police Service of Northern Ireland Legal Services has provided the information requested in 2a to 2c in the attached document 0000001763pdf

Answer 3 - In relation to question 3, the cost of complying with your request for the information would exceed the "appropriate limit" as stated in the Freedom of Information Regulations 2004, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450.

To provide brief details of each search would place the request over the appropriate fees level. To provide further details of each individual search would place the request over the appropriate fees level of £450 (18 hours) as stated by the Secretary of State. To provide further information would require Legal Services to provide a list of the searches for which compensation has been paid, and for each District Command Unit within Northern Ireland to examine each record that would relate to their DCU. To provide that list would take a further 2-3 hours by Legal Services, and as there are 46 searches, and allowing approx. 15 minutes for each search, take a further 11 hours. This would take the total time for the request to approx. 32 hours. It should also be borne in mind that most claims are settled with 'Terms Endorsed', which would prevent the disclosure of details.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice in relation to question 3.

You may wish to submit a refined request in order that the cost of complying with your request may be facilitated within the 'appropriate limit'. Submission of a refined request would be treated as a new request, and considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, including consideration of relevant Part II exemptions. It may be possible to provide brief details of each search for a reduced time frame if this one question was submitted as a new request. This would still require Legal Services to provide a list of the names and addresses of each search, which would then have to be forwarded to each District Command Unit to research each search applicable to that DCU.

If you have any queries regarding your request or this 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 PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ <http://www.psnipolice.uk/>

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

Damage to Residences Searched Using Warrant or PACE
& No Charges Brought Against Owner

| Case No. | Compensation Paid | Settled In or Out of Court | Search for Items or Individuals |
|----------|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | 3,669.88 | Out of Court | Items |
| 2 | 2,000.00 | Out of Court | Items |
| 3 | 1,758.98 | Out of Court | Items |
| 4 | 1,150.00 | Out of Court | Items & Person |
| 5 | 1,145.63 | Out of Court | Items |
| 6 | 1,100.00 | Out of Court | Items |
| 7 | 1,050.00 | Out of Court | Items |
| 8 | 955.00 | Out of Court | Items |
| 9 | 950.00 | Out of Court | Items |
| 10 | 950.00 | Out of Court | Items |
| 11 | 898.00 | Out of Court | Items |
| 12 | 809.58 | Out of Court | Items |
| 13 | 800.30 | Out of Court | Items |
| 14 | 650.00 | Out of Court | Items |
| 15 | 614.00 | Out of Court | Items |
| 16 | 600.00 | Out of Court | Person |
| 17 | 592.00 | Out of Court | Person |
| 18 | 575.00 | Out of Court | Items |
| 19 | 569.23 | Out of Court | Items |
| 20 | 550.00 | Out of Court | Items |
| 21 | 550.00 | Out of Court | Items |
| 22 | 525.00 | Out of Court | Items |
| 23 | 500.00 | Out of Court | Items |

| | | | |
|-------|-----------|--------------|--------|
| 24 | 500.00 | Out of Court | Items |
| 25 | 480.00 | Out of Court | Person |
| 26 | 475.00 | Out of Court | Items |
| 27 | 440.63 | Out of Court | Items |
| 28 | 400.00 | Out of Court | Items |
| 29 | 400.00 | Out of Court | Person |
| 30 | 380.70 | Out of Court | Person |
| 31 | 350.00 | Out of Court | Person |
| 32 | 325.99 | Out of Court | Person |
| 33 | 304.25 | Out of Court | Person |
| 34 | 301.85 | Out of Court | Items |
| 35 | 300.00 | Out of Court | Items |
| 36 | 300.00 | Out of Court | Person |
| 37 | 251.00 | Out of Court | Items |
| 38 | 235.00 | Out of Court | Person |
| 39 | 210.00 | Out of Court | Person |
| 40 | 295.00 | Out of Court | Items |
| 41 | 171.19 | Out of Court | Person |
| 42 | 160.00 | Out of Court | Person |
| 43 | 132.46 | Out of Court | Person |
| TOTAL | 29,375.67 | | |

Damage to Residences Mistakenly Searched Using Warrant

or PACE Where Address of Offender Incorrect

| Case No. | Compenstion Paid | Settled In or Out of Court | Search for Items or Individuals |
|----------|------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| A | 1,057.50 | Out of Court | Person |
| B | 618.43 | Out of Court | Person |
| C | 252.98 | Out of Court | Items |
| TOTAL | 1,928.91 | | |