



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2008-05076

Keyword: Finance

Subject: DETAILS OF CONTRACTS AWARDED TO 'BALLYMORE' BUILDERS

Request:

Can you give me details of all contracts of John Sinton the UVF commander in Tandragee who may have went under the name of Ballymore builders/contracts or such and is the subject of investigation of two murders and other criminal activities.

Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full.

In order to provide any further details on these contracts a manual trawl of hand written orders would have to be carried out for the years above. There is a large number of invoices covering these years which are not solely associated to John Sinton / Ballymore Builders / Contracts therefore we would need to retrieve this information from numerous other hand written paper orders belonging to other contractors for the same time period, this exercise would take at least 70 - 100 hours.

Due to the factors above the cost of complying with your request for 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.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland have also considered whether we can be of any assistance in terms of helping you refine your request to bring it under the cost limit however the nature and structure of the information unfortunately makes this impossible.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland would like to inform you that we are in a position to supply the yearly totals paid to John Sinton / Ballymore Builders / Contracts from 1998 - 2004, please note the post of Chief Constable only assumed responsibility for Support Services in 1999. The Police Authority were previously responsible for the procurement of Works Contractors and associated payments. The Police Authority are now the Policing Board and you may wish to contact the Policing Board in relation to attaining a complete and accurate record of payments to John Sinton / Ballymore Builders / Contracts prior to 1999. Whilst the attachment illustrates payments from 1998, we cannot confirm that this payment represents the complete picture. We are aware that the Police Authority employed DOE Construction Service to manage the Estate and they did make direct payments on behalf of the Police Authority to Works Contractors using a drawdown account.

As explained above please find attached the yearly totals paid to John Sinton / Ballymore Builders / Contracts from 1998 - 2004 - 0000001800.pdf

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice, and the request has therefore been closed.

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 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.

Year	Sintons / Ballymore Builders
1996	
1997	
1998	£13,518.36
1999	
2000	
2001	
2002	£302,153.57
2003	£118,942.81
2004	£49,056.95
2005	
2006	
2007	
TOTALS	£483,671.69