



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2008-03793

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: THREATS TO POLICE/SUPPORT STAFF

Request:

I am looking for the following information:

- 1) The number of recorded incidents in each DCU where there has been a specific threat regarding the personal security of a police officer each year since 2002.
- 2) The number of recorded incidents in each DCU where there has been a specific threat regarding the personal security of a police officer by a paramilitary organisation each year since 2002.
- 3) The number of recorded incidents in each DCU where a PSNI employee has been forced to leave their home on a temporary basis as a result of a threat to their personal security each year since 2002.
- 4) The number of recorded incidents in each DCU where a PSNI employee has been forced to leave their home on a permanent basis as a result of a threat to their personal security each year since 2002.
- 5) The number of recorded incidents where there has been an increased security risk against employees of the PSNI each year since 2002.

Answer:

The cost of complying with your request for information would greatly exceed the "appropriate limit" as stated in the Freedom of Information Regulations 2004, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450. There are in excess of 600 files to be examined and the relevant information to be extracted. To answer question 1 alone in relation to the breakdown of specific threats in each DCU would exceed the "appropriate limit". Records are only held by the PSNI between the period of January 2002 and October 2007.

Under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act a public authority is obliged to offer advice and assistance to the requester to help them refine their request in an attempt to bring it within the "appropriate limit". In this case it may be possible to supply you with information in relation to the number of incidents reported each year between 2002 and 2007 (i.e. not broken down by DCU), and re questions 3 - 5 the number of incidents involving police staff (not police officers) between 2002 and October 2007. It should be noted that any information that may be supplied to you may be subject to exemptions under FOI legislation.

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.

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.

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

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