



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2008-05402

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: INCORRECT FUEL IN POLICE VEHICLES

Request:

Question 1: I would like to make a request to find out how many times police vehicles have been filled up with the incorrect fuel. i.e. Diesel put into a petrol motor and visa versa.

Question 2: Could you also inform me as to how much money was spent repairing any problems as a result of this?

Question 3: What safeguards you have in place, and when they were introduced, to ensure that this problem does not occur in future?

Question 4: How much money was/has been spent on safeguards?

Question 5: Could you also inform me as to whom is responsible for filling up police vehicles with fuel - the individual officer or someone else?

Question 6: Finally, could you please inform me as to how many vehicles the police force have in their fleet? I would like this information from the previous 5 years up to the most recent data available.

Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested.

Answer 1: We do not specifically record / monitor vehicle misfueling, accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

Answer 2: We do not specifically record and/or monitor where maintenance work is necessary due to vehicle misfueling. To screen records to ascertain those occasions when misfueling is reported as the cause of a fault and then cross reference with associated costs incurred, would require screening a high volume of records and we believe that the results of this would not provide a comprehensive and accurate response to answer the request. I have therefore determined that 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.

Answer 3: Most of the fleet fuel is obtained from bulk sites, which use a fuel key that is specific to each vehicle. There are different keys for petrol and diesel so a vehicle cannot be refuelled from the wrong pump. There is no cost involved in this from the point of view preventing incorrect fuelling. The system was introduced in the PSNI in 1994.

Answer 4: See response to question 3.

Answer 5: Generally this would be the individual driver who would normally be a police officer.

Answer 6:

2004 : 2539
2005 : 2699
2006 : 2651
2007 : 2710
2008 : 2997

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.psni.police.uk/>

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