



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2008-03783

**Keyword:** Organisational Information/Governance

**Subject:** FIXED CCTV CAMERA POSITIONS OUTSIDE ANTRIM ROAD PSNI STATION

### Request:

I recently noticed two new fixed cctv camera positions outside Antrim Road, Belfast PSNI station - one on each side of the road.

I was wondering if you could let me know the reason for the erection of these cameras. Are they to detect excessive speeds by car drivers? Are they to detect out of date tax/MOT discs? Or are they to monitor pedestrians etc?

You can process this as an FOI request if this information is not readily available to the public.

### Answer:

In accordance with the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this particular request. The Police Service of Northern Ireland can neither confirm nor deny that it holds the information you have requested. I can, however, advise you, as required by Section 17 of the Act that such information, if it were to exist, would be reasonably expected to be exempted under:

Section 30(3) Investigations and proceedings conducted by public authorities.

Section 31(3) Law Enforcement.

### HARM AND PIT

Release of information under FOIA must be considered a release of information to the world as a whole. It could be argued that it would be in the public interest to demonstrate that the PSNI is actively involved in the prevention and detection of terrorist based and criminal activities. Providing evidence of police methodology and accurate information may inform public debate and boost levels of confidence within the community.

However, confirming whether or not this information is held may adversely affect the efficient and effective conduct of the PSNI. Public safety is of paramount importance to the PSNI and must always be considered. It is not in the public interest to disclose information that may compromise the PSNI's ability to fulfil its core function of law enforcement or to endanger the health and safety of the general public, or PSNI officers.

Furthermore, in reliance on the exemptions in sections 30(3) and 31(3) of the Freedom of Information Act (2000), we can neither confirm nor deny whether we hold any additional information relevant to your request. To the extent that sections 30(3) and 31(3) apply, it has been determined that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exclusion of the duty to confirm or deny outweighs the public interest in confirming whether or not the

information is held. To give a statement of the reasons why these exemptions apply would involve the disclosure of information which would itself be exempt. Therefore, under section 17(4) of the Act, we are not obliged to give such a statement.

However, this should not be taken as conclusive evidence that the information you requested exists or does not exist.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate to contact 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](mailto: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.