



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2008-04511

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: FUELLING OF PSNI VEHICLES

Request:

Question 1 - On how many instances did PSNI officers put the wrong type of fuel into (service) cars in each of the last five years (either financial or calendar is acceptable)

Question 2 - The financial cost of damage (if any) caused by PSNI officers putting the wrong type of fuel into (service) cars in each of the last five years (either financial or calendar is acceptable)

Question 3 - An inventory of all instances (if any) where PSNI officers put the wrong type of fuel into (service) cars in each of the last five years (either financial or calendar is acceptable), including the date, location and cost of each instance.

Question 4 - On how many instances did PSNI officers run out of fuel while travelling in (service) cars in each of the last five years (either financial or calendar is acceptable)

Question 5 - The financial cost of damage (if any) caused by PSNI officers running out of fuel while travelling in (service) cars in each of the last five years (either financial or calendar is acceptable)

Question 6 - An inventory of all instances (if any) where PSNI officers ran out of fuel while travelling in (service) cars in each of the last five years (either financial or calendar is acceptable), including the date, location and cost of each instance.

Answer:

I am writing to confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information.

Answers 1-3 - The Police Service of Northern Ireland do not specifically record and / or monitor where maintenance work is necessary due to vehicle misfuelling. Vehicle faults are recorded on the basis of the information provided by the customer and we are of the view that misfuelling or any repairs required would not always be presented at initial stages as a fault and therefore not recorded as such. To screen records to ascertain those occasions when it is overtly reported as the cause of the fault would require 185 hours of research, which exceeds the appropriate fees level of £450 as specified in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. To locate and retrieve the information requested would require a member of staff to carry out a time consuming search of a high volume of records and may still not provide the comprehensive and accurate response to answer the request.

It should be noted that as a high percentage of fuel is currently obtained from embedded bulk tanks, the chances of misfuelling are negligible as petrol and diesel keys used in the dispensing system are different and you cannot draw petrol on a diesel key and vice versa.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland have also considered whether we can be of any assistance in terms of helping you refine questions 1-3 to bring them under the cost limit, however, the nature and structure of the information unfortunately makes this impossible.

Answers 4-6 - The Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information requested in relation to questions 4,5 & 6.

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 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.