



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2008-04263

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: LOST/MISSING POLICE ITEMS

Request:

Question 1 - An inventory of all items, which have been lost from PSNI stations in Northern Ireland since the PSNI came into existence. I would ask that this includes a description of each item, the estimated value of each item, the station and DCU area from which each item was taken, and the date it was reported missing please.

Question 2 - An inventory of all items, which have been lost by officers in Northern Ireland since the PSNI came into existence. I would ask that this includes a description of each item, the estimated value of each item, the station and DCU area from which each item was taken, and the date it was reported missing please.

You subsequently agreed to refine this question as follows; Proceed as you have suggested, retrieve information recorded electronically since September 2007.

Question 3 - An inventory of police equipment lost from PSNI stations in Northern Ireland since the PSNI came into existence. I would ask that this includes a description of each item, the estimated value of each item, the station and DCU area from which each item was taken, and the date it was reported missing please.

Question 4 - An inventory of all police equipment lost by officers in Northern Ireland since the PSNI came into existence. I would ask that this includes a description of each item, the estimated value of each item, the station and DCU area from which each item was taken, and the date it was reported missing please.

Question 5 - An inventory of firearms lost from PSNI stations in Northern Ireland since the PSNI came into existence. I would ask that this includes a description of each item, the estimated value of each item, the station and DCU area from which each item was taken, and the date it was reported missing please.

Question 6 - An inventory of all firearms lost by officers in Northern Ireland since the PSNI came into existence. I would ask that this includes a description of each item, the estimated value of each item, the station and DCU area from which each item was taken, and the date it was reported missing please.

Question 7 - An inventory of data lost from PSNI stations in Northern Ireland since the PSNI came into existence. I would ask that this includes a description of each item, the estimated value of each item, the station and DCU area from which each item was taken, and the date it was reported missing please.

Question 8 - An inventory of all data lost by officers in Northern Ireland since the PSNI came into existence. I would ask that this includes a description of each item, the estimated value of each item, the station and DCU area from which each item was taken, and the date it was reported missing please.

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.

You subsequently agreed to refine this question as follows; Proceed as you have suggested, retrieve information recorded electronically since September 2007.

Answer 1 - Please find attached records numbered 1669.pdf

Answer 2 - Please find attached records numbered 1659.pdf

Answer 3 - 8 - The items referred to questions 3 to 8 of your request were contained in the search criteria resulting in the above records. You will note that the search did not return any such items.

For your information the loss of major items, including items such as firearms, sensitive data etc which were investigated by our Professional Standards Department was the subject of a recent request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and our response can be found in the PSNI's Publication Scheme at the following website address, http://www.psni.police.uk/missing_lost_items_by_the_psni_in_the_last_two_years.pdf

The table of items found at the above hyperlink does contain items of police equipment etc. There is a small overlap in the time periods concerned, which would tend to indicate that some of these items should also be contained in the tables produced in answer to questions 1 and 2, (records 1669.pdf and 1659.pdf). This apparent inconsistency may be explained as follows; the electronic system used for recording lost and found property was introduced in September 2007 as previously indicated. It was at this time that the roll-out of the system commenced so therefore not all police stations would have had access to the system in the initial stages. Those stations would have used the old paper based method in the interim period. The roll-out across the 8 Districts was only completed in May 2008 so the data recorded will be limited.

Please note that figures are extracted from a non-finalised data file and are subject to amendment.

Whilst staff have a responsibility to secure items of public property, in an organisation of over 12000 staff with thousands of items of equipment and items on issue, there will be occasions when items go missing. In incidents of serious neglect, disciplinary action may be taken against officers and staff.

United Kingdom Police Services do not use generic systems to capture information. For this reason PSNI's response to your questions should not be used for comparison purposes with any other Police Service.

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.

Property Reported Lost From Police Station

Description	Value	Station	DCU	Date Reported
Warrant Card	0	Musgrave Street	South Belfast	15/12/2007

These figures obtained from Niche RMS, searching for lost property occurrences, where occurrence address was listed as a police station. 44 hits returned but on checking details, only one was found to have occurred at a police station.

Lost - By Officers

Description	Value	Station	DCU	Date reported
Wallet - credit cards/cash	£70	Craigavon	Craigavon	11/01/2008
Wallet - Driving Lic, Warrant card	0	Musgrave Street	South Belfast	08/12/2007
Purse - Australian dollars	several hundred au dollars	Strabane	Strabane	10/04/2008
Mobile phone	0	Limavady	Limavady	21/02/2008
Cash	£570	Ballymena	Ballymena	01/08/2008
Mobile phone	0	Musgrave Street	South Belfast	25/01/2008
Keys	0	Dungannon	Dungannon	18/03/2008
Mobile phone	0	Musgrave Street	South Belfast	26/01/2008
Passport/Driving Lic	0	Newtownards	Ards	05/09/2008
Passport	0	Newtownards	Ards	03/06/2008
Mobile phone	0	Strand Road	Foyle	07/08/2008
Mobile phone	0	Carrickfergus	Carrickfergus	29/08/2008
Mobile phone	0	Banbridge	Banbridge	20/07/2008
Passport	0	Waterside	Foyle	12/04/2008
Mobile phone	0	Bangor	North Down	14/09/2008

These figures obtained from Niche RMS, searching for persons with a service number, and classified as 'loser'.