



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2008-04183

**Keyword:** Organisational Information/Governance

**Subject:** Media releases your organisation and relevant agencies have prepared

**Request:**

### **Q1. Media releases your organisation and relevant agencies have prepared against enquiry**

**Answer:**

#### **Answer**

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.

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.

As explained to you on the 29th August 2008 by telephone, the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) are unable to provide the information requested in this format. The system used by the PSNI makes no distinction between lines against enquiry and pro-active lines. Since the installation of the Solcara System there have been over 23,600 incidents logged, most of which would have multiple briefings attached. Against those incidents, the PSNI has logged over 42,700 calls. Add to this the press logs that the PSNI hold prior to the Solcara system, it is estimated that to locate and retrieve the information requested would take several months of work.

By just taking the log for the recent events in Craigavon as an example: In all the PSNI logged 59 calls and 27 briefings/lines. Of the briefings/lines; 9 were proactively released, 4 were purely internal notes for the information of staff while 14 were held against enquiry. Examples of these were; "... asked if things were kicking off again in Craigavon?"; "asked if we were putting any more resources into policing Craigavon this evening."

For a member of staff to go through this one incident thoroughly, it is estimated as being at least an hour's work and this is a recent incident with an average number of briefings and calls attached. Admittedly there are many logs that could be checked out in less time but there are many more that would require much more time. Indeed some could take days.

Under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the PSNI has a duty to assist persons who have made requests. However, as you were unable to refine your request as per your telephone conversation on the 28th August 2008, it has been impossible for the PSNI to bring it within the £450 appropriate fees level as specified by the Secretary of State.

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](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.

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](http://www.psni.police.uk).

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