



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2008-03449

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Missing / Lost items by the PSNI in the last two financial years

Request:

" I'm looking for a detailed breakdown of all items, ranging from evidential exhibits to weapons, which went missing/were lost by the PSNI and PSNI officers in the last two financial years—from 2006-2007 and 2007-2008. I would like to know what was lost in each case, from where it was lost/went missing and whether it was recovered, date of loss and where applicable the value of what was lost."

This was clarified to mean **"property which came into possession of/seized by PSNI in last two years as well as property owned by PSNI."** Further clarification was then received as follows; **"limit it to evidential exhibits and weapons if possible, if not all are possible then those "items missing or lost and the circumstances of the loss have been reported to the Professional Standards Department (PSD) of the PSNI". If evidential exhibits being lost or going missing are generally not referred to PSD I could make two separate requests--one for weapons (as understand this would largely be referred to PSD and therefore easy to get details) and a separate request for evidential exhibits instead of coupling them both together."**

Answer:

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.

Please find attached records numbered 1670.pdf – Appendix A.

The information supplied in response to your request has been obtained from the Professional Standards Department of the PSNI, which has responsibility for internal discipline relating to police officers. The information has not been obtained from a central database but identified after a manual search of files, consequently there is potential for a greater margin of error.

The information provided does not include cases that the Police Ombudsman is currently investigating and which have not as yet been notified to this Department.

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.

District Command Units were also canvassed as to whether they held any further information regarding weapons and evidence lost and not reported to PSD, and for cost estimates for retrieving this information, if held. Responses from the districts indicated that the search for information by them would involve a manual trawl of various information sources and would amount to the cost of complying with your request exceeding 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.

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.

TABLE 1

**ITEMS MISSING/LOST BY THE PSNI AND PSNI OFFICERS IN THE
2006/2007 AND 2007/2008 FINANCIAL YEARS.**

DATE OF LOSS/WENT MISSING	ITEM LOST OR MISSING	FROM WHERE LOST/WENT MISSING	RECOVERED	VALUE
1.8.06	1 round of ammunition	Exact location not known	Not known	Not known
15.8.06	Tachograph	Police Station	Not known	No
Between 2 and 21.9.06	Police radio	Police Station	Yes	Not applicable
10.12.06	1 police baton	Police vehicle	Yes	Not applicable
30.12.06	1 round ammunition	Public street	Not known	Not known
2006 – exact date not known	1 round ammunition	Exact location not known	Not known	Not Known
2006 – exact date not known	16 rounds of ammunition and 1 magazine	Exact location not known	Not known	Not Known
2006 – exact date not known	Various forms, 2 notebooks and 1 book of enforceable fixed penalty notices	Public Street	Not known	Not known
4.1.07	1 personal protection weapon, 1 magazine and 17 rounds of ammunition	Private residence	Yes	Not applicable
26.1.07	1 drivers authorisation card	Police Station	Yes	Not applicable
27.1.07	Set of handcuffs and pouch	Public Street	Not known	Not known
6.7.07	1 round ammunition	Public Street	Not known	Not known
8.7.07	CS spray canister and holder	Public Street	Not known	Not known
8.7.07	Laser sped device	Public Street	Not known	Not known
11.8.07	2 rounds ammunition	Public Street	Not known	Not known
8.10.07	CS spray canister and holder	Public Street	Not known	Not known
Between 14-30.10.07	£400	Police Station	Yes	Not applicable
2.11.07	16 rounds of ammunition and 1 magazine	Police vehicle	Yes	Not known
1.12.07	Police radio	Public Street	Not known	Not known
Late 07-early 08 – exact date not known	Police notebook	Exact location not known	Not known	Not known
January 08 – exact date not known	CS spray canister	Police vehicle	Yes	Not applicable