



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2008-04363

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: PSNI MEDIA COSTS

Request:

Question 1 - How much did the PSNI spend on PR staff or those in corporate communications during the 12 months period ended May 2008?

Question 2 - Please give a comparison figure for 2003.

Question 3 - How many staff are involved in press office duties, PR and corporate communications?

Question 4 - Are they mainly civilian staff?

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.

To put the following figures into context, it should be noted that the PSNI Department of Media and Public Relations supports policing by managing and responding to the huge number of media queries received on a daily basis. The department is also responsible for all internal and external communications support.

Through the department's three interlinked branches, News, Public Relations and Public Affairs significant effort goes into explaining the major issues of development and change facing the Service, and supporting front line policing by working in partnership with local and national media and our key stakeholders.

In the financial year 2007/2008 the Department of Media and Public Relations department received nearly 19,000 calls from media, received and processed 877 interview bids for officers at all ranks, from Constable to Chief Constable and arranged over 500 interviews for radio, television, print and online media. In addition, the department issued over 8,850 proactive lines of advice and news releases.

Answer 1 - Total Salary cost including Employer National Insurance Contributions etc is £1,314,603 for the period June 2007 to May 2008.

Answer 2 - It has not been possible to provide a comparison figure for 2003. The oldest comparative figure available is £1,445,608 for the period June 2005 to May 2006.

Answer 3 - There are 36.25 staff involved.

Answer 4 - The staff composition is 33.25 Police Staff and 3 Police Officers.

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.