



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2008-04852

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: PSNI's USE OF TAXIS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Request:

Question 1 - On how many occasions did the PSNI use taxis to transport suspects in criminal investigations to or from a police station in each of the last three years (financial or calendar is acceptable)?

Question 2 - How much money did the PSNI pay in taxi fares to transport suspects in criminal investigations to or from a police station in each of these years?

Question 3 - On how many occasions did the PSNI use public transport, to transport suspects in criminal investigations to or from a police station in each of the last three years (financial or calendar is acceptable)?

Question 4 - How much money did the PSNI pay to cover public transport costs when transporting suspects in criminal investigations to or from a police station in each of these years?

Question 5 - On how many occasions did the PSNI use taxis to transport police officers to or from their place of work (please include all instances, including stations, meetings, events etc) in each of the last three years (financial or calendar is acceptable), broken down by rank of officer.

Question 6 - How much money did the PSNI use on taxis to transport police officers to or from their place of work (please include all instances, including to/from stations, meetings, events etc) in each of the last three years (financial or calendar is acceptable), broken down by rank of officer.

Answer:

I am writing to confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information and the answers to the questions are as follows.

Answers 1, 2, 3 and 4 - I contacted the Business Managers throughout the service who have the responsibility for finance and the payment of any such claims and have been advised that with regard to questions 1 and 3, there is NO record of any occasion when the PSNI used taxis/public transport to transport suspects in criminal investigations to or from a police station in each of the last three years. Therefore, the answer to questions 2 and 4 is that no money has been spent.

Answers 5 and 6 - Information required to answer these is not held centrally and the Business Managers in the Police Service of Northern Ireland have advised that to be able provide an answer to questions 5 and 6 would require a manual trawl through every individual officer's finance files for the past 36 months. Trawling through some 7000 officers files to extract any relevant claim forms at an average of 30 minutes per file would take well in excess of the time permitted to

locate and provide the information as set down in FOI legislation.

Due to the factors above the cost of complying with your request for information in questions 5 and 6 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 with regard to questions 5 and 6.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland have also considered whether we can be of any assistance in terms of helping you refine these question to bring them 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 PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ <http://www.psni.police.uk/>

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