



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-01102

Keyword: Crime

Subject: CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO KNIFE CRIME

Request and Answer:

Question

Copies of correspondence, including letters, emails, faxes and similar, between the Chief Constable, DCC, and ACCs to any representatives of the Home Office or Ministry of Justice making specific reference to knife crime. This request covers correspondence where the chief subject matter discussed is the issue of knife crime, incidents of knife crime in the force area, measures to tackle knife, or knife crime sentencing.

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 order to locate and retrieve the information a member of staff would have to search under 'Knife Crime', 'Home Office' and 'Ministry of Justice' in an initial search. This indicates over 1200 records, which would then require a member of staff to trawl through each document in order to locate, retrieve and extract the relevant information to be disclosed from any other information the document may hold. It has been estimated that to carry out this retrieval, would take in excess of 54 hours. This is over the appropriate limit as determined by the Secretary of State, which currently stands at £450 (18hrs).

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.

The PSNI has also considered if we can be of assistance to you in refining the request to bring it within the appropriate level, however, this would be impossible due to the nature and structure of the information requested.

For your information, you may find the attached link to the PSNI web site of some interest to you:

http://www.psni.police.uk/index/news-archive/news-2009/news_march_2009/24-03-09_knives_ruin_lives_make_the_right_choice.htm

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

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.