



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-01520
Keyword: Crime
Subject: FOOTBALL VIOLENCE

Request and Answer:

Question

Requests figures stating how many arrests have been made in 2009 relating to football violence before, during and after Irish League Football matches.

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.

The request asks for arrests relating to violence at Irish League Football matches. The Irish league encompasses two divisions who play League matches as well as other tournaments throughout the season. The information sought is not recorded centrally and would have to be extracted from a number of databases held by each of our District Command Units. This would take in excess of 25 hours.

To accurately supply the information a staff member would have to firstly identify the dates and times of all home matches for all the teams, possibly around 100 matches in one District alone. Then a trawl of the database would have to be carried out to determine if any arrests took place at those venues.

Therefore, it is estimated that the cost of complying with your request, including locating it, retrieving it and exacting it 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 (18 hours).

I have also considered whether I can be of any assistance in terms of helping you refine your request to bring it under the cost limit. If you were to restrict your request to cover a shorter period of time e.g. two or three months we may be able to provide you with the information.

Submission of a refined request would be treated as a new request, and considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, including consideration of relevant Part II exemptions.

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.

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 @ www.psnipolice.uk

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