



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2009-02354  
**Keyword:** Crime  
**Subject:** GOOGLE STREET VIEW

### Request and Answer:

#### Question

Please could you ask each of your Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators if they have come across any recent burglaries or attempted burglaries where the perpetrators were either proven or suspected of using Google Street View to locate their targets.

For each case, please provide a) the date of the crime b) the location (please be as precise as you can be) c) the age of the offenders d) what was taken e) if any weapons were used and if so, what weapons f) how Google Street View was used, or suspected of being used g) the outcome of the case thus far.

#### Answer

Your request asks for details of burglaries or attempted burglaries where the perpetrators were either proven or suspected of using Google Street View to locate their targets. From 1st January 2009 until 17th August 2009 there are 7941 incidents recorded on our systems where an offence suffixes burglary. In order to provide you with an accurate response all these records will have to be checked for references to Google. As our current computer system does not have a search field to allow this to be done easily, all these recorded incidents will have to be searched manually.

I have been informed by the record holder that to search one of these records would take an estimated 3 to 5 minutes. Therefore the minimum time to retrieve information required will be  $7941 \times 3$  minutes = 23828 minutes or 39.7 hours.

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).

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.

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](mailto: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](http://www.psnipolice.uk)

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