



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-01372

Keyword: Crime

Subject: HOLY CROSS DISPUTE - ARDOYNE

Request and Answer:

Question

Request for details of arrests, charges and prosecutions arising from the Holy Cross dispute in Ardoyne for the period 18 June 2001 to 10 January 2002.

Answer

The PSNI would not hold this information centrally, and to search under Holy Cross or Holy Cross Related would be too vague for automated data retrieval. The PSNI have also considered if it is possible to retrieve the information requested from the Judicial Review application papers. However, this would take in excess of 16 hours to locate, retrieve and summarise the information. Legal Services have however, advised that the information held would be incomplete and would not provide an accurate figure for the number of arrests etc. In order to locate, retrieve and summarise the information requested, would therefore require a search of over 300 arrest records that were made during the Holy Cross Dispute period to ascertain which arrests were related to the Holy Cross dispute. Prosecution and custody records were paper at this time so a manual trawl would be required. Allowing 30 minutes per search would therefore take this request to 150hrs, which would exceed the appropriate limit as determined by the Secretary of State under the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

The cost of complying with your request for information would therefore 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, and the request has therefore been closed.

The PSNI have also considered whether we can be of any assistance in terms of helping you refine your request to bring it within the cost limit, however, the nature and structure of the information makes this impossible.

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 letter.

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.psni.police.uk

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