



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-02128

Keyword: Crime

Subject: LARRY ZAITCHEK INVESTIGATION

Request and Answer:

Question

Please supply the total costs associated with the Larry Zaitchek investigation and as far as possible a breakdown of those costs

Also please supply the total time spent in terms of man hours on this investigation.

Answer

Please note that police do not record the costs of specific investigations as investigative activity is regarded as routine activity for police officers.

The information you require has not been collated in the format you requested. Therefore, the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) does not retain the cost or the number of man hours in an easily retrievable format. To conduct this search would involve extraction of staff to be redirected from current work to complete this task. To do this would impact on the PSNI's ability to deliver front line policing, which would also impact on the wider community.

The nature of the expenditure incurred on this investigation has been wide-ranging, comprising a broad spectrum of multi-disciplinary specialist inputs coupled with the fact that this investigation has been running for seven years only adds to the complexity of the retrieval of any cost information. The information would also not be easily distilled (information which is quantitative e.g. statistics, accounts and other numeric data) and may not therefore be accurately conveyed.

It is therefore considered 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.

You may wish to submit a refined request in order that the cost of complying with your request may be facilitated within the 'appropriate limit'. 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. The PSNI 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 due to the nature and structure of the information requested, this is not possible within the appropriate limit.

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 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.