



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2009-00867

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** MR IAN WITHERS - REFUSAL TO PROVIDE NATIONAL INSURANCE NUMBER

### Request and Answer:

I write in connection with your request for information dated March 5, 2009, which was received by the Police Service of Northern Ireland on March 5, 2009. I note you seek access to the following information:

#### Question

I am a producer for BBC Radio Ulster. On 5th March, we covered the story of Mr Ian Withers of Steeple Road in Antrim on the Stephen Nolan show. Mr Withers refused to provide his National Insurance number for the Electoral Register. He was reported to the police by the Electoral Office and subsequently appeared at Antrim Magistrates Court on Tuesday 3rd March and was fined one penny.

I would like to establish what the total cost (manpower, administration, investigation costs etc.) of Mr Withers' court appearance was to the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

#### Answer

The Police Service of Northern Ireland do not hold this information.

In order to answer your question we would have to create new data. The investigation of offences is part of a police officer's duty on a day to day basis, and to break down every individual investigation into separate costs, such as the amount of time spent recording a statement, or gathering evidence, would be an extremely time consuming task. The PSNI do record costs of some investigations e.g. high profile cases/specific public enquires where it is appropriate and necessary to collate this information.

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 @ <http://www.psnipolice.uk/>

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