



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-01088

Keyword: Crime

Subject: RETROSPECTIVE MURDER REVIEW UNIT (RMRU)

Request and Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full.

Question 1

Since it began its work, how many cases have been re-examined by the PSNI's Retrospective Murder Review Unit?

Answer

All cases have been examined for status and prioritisation. To date 107 of these cases have been assessed through the RMRU priority matrix (see answer to Question 9)

Question 2

How many of these are also the subject of a Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland (PONI) investigation?

Answer

The record holder for this information is PONI and not RMRU. Should you wish to submit a request for the information in question 2, the PONI can be accessed via the following link:

<http://www.policeombudsman.org/>

Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland
New Cathedral Buildings
St Anne's Square
11 Church Street
Belfast
BT1 1PG
Tel: 0845 5601 2931 or 028 9082 8600
Fax: 028 9082 8659

Question 3

How many arrests have been made?

Answer.

Total of 13 arrests.

Question 4

What has been the outcome of these arrests? For instance, released on bail, file sent to the PPS...

Answer

A total of 8 people have been released to be reported. A further 5 people have been charged and are on bail following High Court applications.

Question 5

How many individuals have been charged?

Answer

Five individuals have been charged and a further 8 released to be reported.

Question 6

What were these charges?

Answer

Three people charged with - Murder.

One person charged with - Withholding Information.

One person charged with - Assisting Offenders.

Two other individuals have been reported to the DPP for murder.

Five people reported for – Conspiracy to Murder.

One person reported for – Possessing Ammunition.

Question 7

Have any cases proceeded to trial?

Answer

None have proceeded to trial, as the Public Prosecution Service is still to issue directions in these cases.

Question 8

How many cases overall does the RMRU expect to review?

Answer

A total of 693 cases.

Question 9

What are the criteria for prioritising cases for review?

Answer

Cases are prioritised on the basis of evidential potential. Following an assessment of the case and dependent on the findings of that assessment in terms of forensic possibilities, fingerprints, intelligence information, new witnesses etc then a scoring system which is applicable to those areas is applied using a matrix to give a total score to each case. The scores from the matrix are then used to draw up a priority list of cases, which are to be fully reviewed with investigative recommendations put forward.

Question 10

Does the RMRU have a limited lifespan? If so, what is it?

Answer

The 'lifespan' of RMRU will be determined at Senior Command level and in consultation with appropriate partners / stakeholders.

Question 11

If the RMRU has no set lifespan, how long will it take to complete its work?

Answer

The completion of all cases within RMRU remit will take a considerable period. It is difficult to determine given that each case is different and may require differing resources and commitment.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the 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 @ <http://www.psni.police.uk/>

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