



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-01166

Keyword: Crime

Subject: TERRORIST INCIDENTS - DERRY

Request and Answer:

Question

I am seeking primarily information on the many incidents of car bombs and bombings, many of the car bombs and explosions happen downtown Derry. To narrow the dates further making that from Dec 1975 until about April 1977.

Answer

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. Incidents that took place in the 1970's were not recorded electronically and to retrieve the incidents in relation to bombings and gun fire in Derry from December 1975 to April 1977 would involve staff trawling through the Incidents, Reports and Occurrence Books relating to the Derry area for that time period. Although each book would possibly contain an index, the PSNI could not guarantee the accuracy of each index and to base any search solely on the index would not guarantee a true picture of the number of incidents. Therefore to ensure that all the information relating to your request was located, retrieved and summarised, each entry in the Occurrence Books would have to be read to establish the nature of the incident and whether it may involve firearms or bombing occurrences relevant to your request. The approximate amount of entries recorded for that specific period are 8800, and, allowing 5 minutes to read each entry to ascertain if it was relevant to the request, would take in excess of 700hrs. This exceeds the appropriate limit set by the Secretary of State, which is currently set at £450 (18hrs).

I have considered whether I can be of any assistance in terms of helping you refine your request to bring it under the cost limit. If you were to restrict your request to a period of 2 weeks then this could possibly be facilitated. 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.

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

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.