



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-01694

Keyword: Finance

Subject: COST OF CLOSE PROTECTION UNIT / VIP SECURITY

Request and Answer:

Question 1

What was the annual cost 1991 - 2009 for the maintenance of the Close Protection Unit.?

Answer

Please be advised that the Police Service of Northern Ireland is unable to provide the annual cost of the Close Protection Unit from 1991 - 2005 as the information is not in an easily retrievable format. To provide a response would take in excess of the appropriate limit as outlined in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. This is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450 (18)hrs however we have been able to provide the following costs
Total cost of Close Protection Unit is:

| | |
|---------|------------|
| 2004-05 | £6,731,543 |
| 2005-06 | £9,230,663 |
| 2006-07 | £9,222,446 |
| 2007-08 | £8,878,957 |
| 2008-09 | £7,319,279 |

Question 2

What was the cost for the provision of close protection of VIPs at their homes 1991 - 2009 Inc cost of police resources/protective issues such as camera installation and maintenance/roadwork to driveways etc and the installation of windows etc

Answer

Please be advised that the Police Service of Northern Ireland is unable to provide the cost for the provision of close protection of VIP's at their homes from 1991 - 2009 as the information is not in an easily retrievable format. To provide a response would take in excess of the appropriate limit as outlined in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. This is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450 (18) hrs.

Maintenance Work Camera Installation and Work to driveways etc was not the responsibility of the RUC/PSNI. The Northern Ireland Office may be able to provide you with this information. I have provided a link to their website:

<http://www.nio.gov.uk/index/foi.htm>.

Question 3

What was the expenditure on increasing personal protection at the homes of serving officers over the same period 91 - 2009.

Answer

In the time period 1991 - 2009 there have been a number of schemes to which the RUC/PSNI were responsible for, both individually and jointly with the Northern Ireland Office. The Limited Home Protection Scheme was in existence between 1991 and August 1992. This Scheme was jointly administered by the RUC/PSNI and the NIO.

The Designated Area Protection Scheme "DAPS" was introduced in 1990 and administered at local district level in terms of risk assessment, approvals and execution of works. Records of payments for "DAPS" work are not held as the majority of the expenditure occurred in the initial period of the scheme. In the later period of the scheme accounts were paid as part of a larger budget. To provide a detailed and accurate recovery of this information, would take in excess of the appropriate limit as outlined in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. This is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450 (18) hrs.

The DAPS Scheme was laterally phased out and replaced in 2005 by The Criminal Threats Scheme and the Home Security Aid Scheme.

PSNI expenditure to date in relation to the Criminal Threats Scheme and Home Security Aid Scheme from inception in 2005 to date is £56,359.

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.psnipolice.uk/>

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