



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-01129

Keyword: Finance

Subject: COST OF POLICING DISTURBANCES FOLLOWING WORLD CUP GAME - 28/3/09

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 and the answer to your question is as follows.

Question

Cost of policing the rioting, which broke out in Belfast before and after Saturday's (28th March 2009) world cup qualifier between Northern Ireland and Poland.

Answer

I have been advised that the total cost of policing the world cup qualifier between Northern Ireland and Poland was £71,031.64 and the cost incurred by the rioting was £34,184.29

It is not possible to break the cost of the rioting down into pre and post match as most of the cost would have been incurred for retaining officers on duty and additional officers required after the match. The officers who policed the pre match rioting were already on duty and the cost of this would have been part of the original costing for policing the match. The majority of the rioting occurred after the end of the match.

Given the nature and extent of the disorder, which appeared to be orchestrated by a hard core of hardened football hooligans travelling to the game from outside Northern Ireland, the police operation aimed at protecting lives and property in the area was proportionate and appropriate. Eleven police officers were injured during the substantial and sustained disorder, with officers coming under attack from fireworks and other missiles. So far, four people have been charged and a number of others reported for a variety of offences, including riotous/disorderly behaviour, malicious damage and assault on police. An Investigation Team has been set up to look into the disturbances and bring those responsible before the courts.

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.