



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-00301

Keyword: Finance

Subject: PAYMENTS FOR COVERT HUMAN INTELLIGENCE SOURCES

Request and Answer:

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

Question

The estimated costs of payments to Covert Human Intelligence Sources (CHIS) in 2008, 2007 and 2006.

Answer

The figures provided below reflect financial years:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| 2005/2006 | £104,326.00 |
| 2006/2007 | £160,164.00 |
| 2007/2008 | £194,671.00 |
| 2008 to date (February 17 2009) | £261,368.00 |

The use of CHIS by the police service is well known and is governed by the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act, 2000. In relation to your request, PSNI can disclose that the above amounts are recorded as being spent in the above financial years by PSNI on the obtaining of information to combat crime.

The above amounts do not include any payments made to CHIS where funding may have been supplied by exempt bodies.

In relation to any additional information, this notice acts as a refusal notice, under the provisions of S17 (1) of the Freedom of information Act 2000, by virtue of the listed exemption Section 23 Information supplied by, or relating to, bodies dealing with security matters.

The police service works in partnership with other agencies in order to combat issues such as terrorism and organised crime. As such, funding may sometimes be provided by bodies listed at section 23(3).

In this case, I am unable to confirm or deny whether such funding has been provided to PSNI within the time periods specified above, by virtue of section 23 (5) of the act.

Section 23(5) is an absolute exemption and does not require the public interest to be considered. This should not be taken as confirmation or denial that PSNI did or did not receive such funding during the time period specified by your request.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate to contact 028 9070 0164. When contacting the Freedom of Information Team, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this letter.

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.psni.police.uk

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