



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-01015

Keyword: Finance

Subject: HOLYLAND DISTURBANCES, BELFAST - 17 MARCH 2009 (cont)

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.

What was the total cost of policing the St Patrick's Day disturbances/riots in the Holy Land area this year?

Please can you provide a breakdown, showing:

Question 1

The number of officers/vehicles (e.g. 4x4's/patrol cars) used and the cost of using each.

Answer

175 officers and 24 vehicles were used at a cost of £49,242.33. This also includes the cost of policing the St Patrick's day parade and concert.

Question 2

The cost of answering emergency calls from residents relating to the Holy Land St Patrick's Day disturbances.

Answer

No calls were classed as emergency based on the National Call Grading Standards
http://www.psnl.police.uk/index/support/support_how_to_report_crime.htm. & www.acpo.police.uk

The cost of responding to emergency calls would not be costed separately.

Question 3

The cost of extra patrols in the area on St Patrick's Day.

Answer

The cost of extra patrols in the area was £35,611.83

The total cost of policing the St Patrick's day was £49,242.33, which also incorporates the cost of policing the St Patrick's Day Parade and concert. It is estimated that £35,611.83 of this was the cost of policing the disturbances which took place in the Holylands area.

Given the nature and extent of the disorder, the police operation aimed at protecting lives and property in the area was proportionate and appropriate. A number of police officers were injured during the substantial and sustained disorder, with officers coming under attack from fireworks and other missiles. So far, 11 people have been charged and 12 more have been reported for a number of offences, including riotous/disorderly behaviour, malicious damage and assault on

police. A Special 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.