



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2009-00566  
**Keyword:** Finance  
**Subject:** PSNI LEGAL FEES 2006 - 2009

### 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.

#### Question 1

I am seeking to find out the total amount of money the PSNI has spent on legal fees in the past (i) 1 year (ii) 2 years and (iii) 3 years.

#### Answer

For the total amount of money spent on legal fees in the past 3 years please refer to the attached PDF document 0000002062.

Please note we have provided details for 06/07, 07/08 and 08/09 (up to 20/3/09). We would also like to advise that the 3 categories of legal fees listed are a global figure and each category will contain expenditure on items such as witness expenses, experts & fees. It is not possible to extrapolate these items out of the overall figure without going through every payment and this would obviously be extremely time consuming and would exceed the appropriate fees level as specified by the Secretary of State at £450 (18hrs).

#### Question 2

I would like to know to which law firms the money was paid over the past (i) 1 year, (ii) two years and (iii) 3 years.

#### Answer

The Crown Solicitor's Office work solely on behalf of the PSNI.

#### Question 3

I would like to know the total amount of money the PSNI has spent on legal's fees for representation at (i) Bloody Sunday Inquiry (ii) Rosemary Nelson Inquiry (iii) Robert Hamill Inquiry (iv) Omagh bomb civil action.

#### Answer

The PSNI has again taken the 3 years to be 06/07, 07/08 & 08/09

(i) Bloody Sunday Inquiry - this information is not held separately by Legal Services Branch for the period specified in your request. If any money has been paid during this period, it would be included in the amounts provided in the attached document 0000002062.pdf above.

(ii) - Rosemary Nelson Inquiry - Year 07/08 £218,365.25 Year 08/09 £837,093.69

(iii) - Robert Hamill Inquiry - Year 06/07 £49,350.00 Year 07/08 £19,560 Year 08/09 £168,867.90

(iv) Omagh bomb civil action - The figures for the Omagh bomb civil action is provided by Crown Solicitor's Office - £10,907. This figure is incomplete, as further invoices will be submitted in due course.

#### **Question 4**

I would like to know how many (i) solicitors (ii) barristers have been instructed to represent the PSNI over the past (i) 1 year, (ii) 2 years (iii) 3 years. I would like a breakdown of the cost of each representation i.e. inquest, court cases or inquiries and the incurred costs.

#### **Answer**

Legal Services Branch are unable to provide an answer to this question, as details are not recorded in this way. The cost of complying with question 4 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. To provide the information requested would take 2/3 days to provide a workable solution at a cost of £1,000 per day, placing question 4 over the cost limit. The PSNI has also considered if we can be of assistance in refining question 4 to bring it within the appropriate fees limit, however the structure and nature of question 4 unfortunately makes refinement impossible.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice in relation to question 4.

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](mailto: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.

## AMOUNT PAID ON LEGAL FEES

Type of Expenditure	08/09	07/08	06/07
Professional Fees	1,423,174 *	1,529,168	1,016,280
Outlay	1,237,621 *	1,135,917	1,334,029
Misc Legal Fees	297,953 *	255,860	73,051

\* paid to date 08/09 financial year – details checked 20/3/09