



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-01780

Keyword: Finance

Subject: REFRESHMENT / STATIONERY EXPENDITURE

Request and Answer:

Searches were conducted regarding Questions 1, 2, 4 and 5 which failed to locate any records or documents to the level of detail outlined in your request and based on the information you have provided. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

However, figures are held by the Central Statistics Department for hospitality, stationery and paper expenditure for the financial years 2007/08 and 2008/09. As each District is responsible for their own individual budgets, however, these are general figures and are dependent on how each Branch/Department within each of the eight districts would code and classify their expenditure to the PSNI expense codes.

Question 1

How much your force spent on providing refreshments for visitors and staff in the financial years 2007/08 and 2008/09. Refreshments would include, but are not limited to, items such as tea, coffee, biscuits and sandwiches.

Question 2

How much your force spent on tea in the financial years 2007/08 and 2008/09 and coffee over the same time period.

Answer

The Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold this information to the level of detail you require. Please see the attached table, which shows the total expenditure for PSNI hospitality for the financial years 2007/08 and 2008/09. The figure for hospitality would include expenditure for such items as tea, coffee, biscuits and sandwiches, although the hospitality budget is not limited to the provision of refreshments. Tea, coffee, sandwiches and other refreshments are provided at a wide range of PSNI stations, operations and events, from drinks machines in station canteens to provision of refreshments for staff and guests at passing out parades as well as for staff at training courses and conferences. As explained above, these figures are dependent on how each department classifies each item to the PSNI expense codes and so figures for individual items such as tea or coffee are not held.

Question 3

How much your force spent on items classed as stationery in the financial years 2007/08 and 2008/09.

Answer

Please see the attached table, which shows the total expenditure for items, which have been deemed by individual PSNI Districts, branches and departments as stationery items. This figure includes pens, pencils, erasers etc. However, other office items such as fans, print cartridges etc may also have been included in this figure. It is also possible that some paper expenditure may also have been included; depending on how each department chooses to classify and code each individual item.

Question 4

How many pens your force purchased in the financial years 2007/08 and 2008/09 and how much those purchases cost.

Answer

The Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold this information. Please see the attached table, which shows the total expenditure for items, which have been deemed by individual PSNI Districts as stationery items over the financial years 2007/08 and 2009/09. This figure includes pens, however, the actual number of pens purchased and their cost are not held centrally and cannot be provided as explained above. Again, these figures are dependent on how each department chooses to classify their expenditure to the PSNI expense codes, therefore exact figures broken down into individual items are not held.

Question 5

How many sheets of paper your force purchased in the financial years 2007/08 and 2008/09 and how much those purchases cost.

Answer

Please see the attached table, which shows the total expenditure for bulk paper purchases over the financial years 2007/08 and 2008/09. Please again note that these figures are dependent on how each district/department/branch chooses to classify their paper expenditure to the PSNI expense codes and so an accurate number of sheets of paper purchased are not held.

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.

Expenditure for Hospitality and Items classed as Stationery

Category	Total Expenditure 2007/08 £	Total Expenditure 2008/09 £
Hospitality	150,919.53	163,965.02
Stationery	805,213.54	1,007,083.25
Bulk Paper Purchases	132,267.59	114,962.28

Notes

The figure for Hospitality would include refreshments but a full breakdown cannot be provided.
The Figure for stationery includes pens, pencils erasers, rulers etc.