



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2009-01349

**Keyword:** Operational Policing

**Subject:** CASE STUDIES OF ALL ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ORDERS (ASBO's)

**Request and Answer:**

**Previous request F-2009-00833 refers.**

### Question 1

I was more looking for specific details of cases in which ASBOs were issued when I said 'reasons' in the original request. Could I get a list of case studies, names excluded obviously, of ASBOs and the reasons they were issued against individuals, with specifics of their behaviour - not just 'disorderly behaviour' etc.

### Answer

The cost of complying with your request for information 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. The reasons ASBOs are issued are not collated centrally by the PSNI. Typically for each ASBO there would be a complicated set of circumstances, which show the individual has caused Alarm, Harassment or Distress. These 'reasons' would be evidenced in the ASBO application files by way of statements and these are held by Districts. For each District Command Unit to examine each record for the information requested which would take in excess of 76 hours as previously outlined in response to your previous request, (F-2009-00833). The PSNI has also considered how your request could be refined to bring it under the cost limit and in the previous response a list of behaviour / actions for which anti-social behaviour orders have been granted was provided. The structure and nature of the information requested makes it difficult to see how any further refinement could be possible.

### Question 2

I would like the numbers of ASBOs issued in recent years and where they were issued, as far back as possible without breaching the maximum cost of a free FOI.

### Answer

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 it has been decided to refuse access to the information you have requested. Section 21 of the Act provides that information, which is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means, is exempt information.

The information you have requested is available on the Parliament website and can be accessed by clicking on the following hyperlink or by copying and pasting it into the address field of your web browser.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090126/text/90126w0004.htm#09012627002143>

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice, and the request has therefore been closed.

If you have any queries regarding your request or this 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.psnipolice.uk/>

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