



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2009-02866

**Keyword:** Operational Policing

**Subject:** DISPLAY OF FLAGS IN NORTH DOWN

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

How many reports has the PSNI received in relation to the display of flags on street lampposts and other similar structures in North Down during 2009?

#### Answer

The PSNI have received 27 reports.

#### Question 2

What range of criminal offences could individuals have committed by erecting flags on street lampposts across North Down over the last number of months?

#### Answer

The range of possible offences that were considered includes possible Harassment, Intimidation and Breach of the Peace. However in the absence of any complaints being made to police no offences have been detected.

#### Question 3

What is the PSNI policy in relation to dealing with reports from members of the public that individuals are erecting flags on street lampposts and other similar structures?

#### Answer

The Police Service, along with other partners such as the Housing Executive and the Department of Regional Development, adheres to an agreed protocol on issues surrounding the flying of flags in public areas. This is based on working with communities to reach agreements on what is acceptable in what we all hope is becoming a more peaceful and tolerant society. This protocol can be obtained by accessing the attached link;

<http://www.asharedfutureni.gov.uk/displayofflags.pdf>

#### Question 4

Is the PSNI aware of the suspected identity of any of the individuals suspected of erecting flags on street lampposts in North down during 2009?

#### Answer

The PSNI is aware of the suspected identity of these individuals.

#### Question 5

Has the PSNI passed on details of any the individuals suspected of erecting flags on street lampposts in North Down during 2009 to other statutory bodies such as the Roads Service?

**Answer**

The Police Service of Northern Ireland have not passed on any of these individual's details.

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 @ [www.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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