



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-03993

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Cost of Policing Irish League Football Matches

Request and Answer:

Question

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I ask for a disclosure of the following information relating to policing football matches:

- State the cost of policing Irish League football matches involving Cliftonville FC, Ballymena Utd FC, Coleraine FC, Crusaders FC, Dungannon Swifts FC, Glenavon, Glentoran, Linfield FC, Institute FC, Lisburn Distillery FC, Newry City, Portadown FC (i.e. home games at their own stadiums) during either 2009 or the 2008/09 football season (August 2008 to May 2009). If possible, could you provide a match-by-match breakdown and a (total) comparison figure for the previous 12-month period?

Answer

It is estimated that the cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the "appropriate costs limit" under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450.

A costing estimate was completed which indicated that the total cost of retrieving the requested information would be in excess of 60 hours.

I have also considered whether I can be of any assistance in terms of helping you refine your request to bring it under the cost limit. If you were to restrict your request to one PSNI District, (with the exception of 'A' District whose estimate alone exceeds the appropriate limit) it may be possible to retrieve the refined information. For an outline of PSNI Districts please visit our Website at, www.psni.police.uk

Submission of a refined request would be treated as a new request, and considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, including consideration of relevant Part II exemptions.

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 letter.

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 @ www.psni.police.uk

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