



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-02558

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: PARADES IN CRAIGAVON AREA - JUNE / AUGUST 2009

Request and Answer:

Question 1

Please could you provide full details of all the Orange Order and Black Institution Parades the PSNI policed during June, July and August this year throughout the Craigavon area of E District including dates and locations and the amount of officers in attendance.

Answer

Please find attached document which contain details of the parades policed during June, July and August 2009 including dates and locations. With regard to the number of officers in attendance - this information will not be disclosed pursuant to the provisions of Section 31 - Law Enforcement and Section 38 - Health & Safety of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states that fact;
- (b) specifies the exemption in question; and
- (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

The exemptions, as well as the factors the Department considered when deciding where the public interest lies are listed below:-

Section 31(1) - Law Enforcement
Section 38(1) - Health & Safety

Sections 31 and 38 are Prejudiced based exemptions and this means it is the Public Authority's responsibility to evidence the harm.

The above exemptions are Qualified exemptions and therefore a Public Interest Test must be carried out.

These tests are listed below.

HARM TEST

Section 31(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Law Enforcement

The disclosure of this information regarding the number of operational police officers at annual parades would allow certain elements to plan how best to cause disruption leading to public disorder. As a service we have considerable

experience and evidence that these elements actively target areas where police numbers are low in order to maximise their chances of success. This is evidenced at a parade this year when a small minority of people attacked police with petrol bombs, bricks, bottles and many other missiles damaging their own community. This point is made to demonstrate how criminals react to knowledge of police resources. The disclosure of this information would allow those intent on criminal conduct to identify areas officer numbers are low and therefore where they are more likely to achieve their aim.

Section 38(1) of the Freedom of Information act 200 - Health & Safety

Disclosure of the information requested would be likely to increase the number of attacks on operational police officers by those who would set out to attack police as evidenced by recent terrorist attacks on police.

The identification of certain parades and policing resources may increase community tension and could lead to disturbances before/during and after the parade. This could jeopardise the safety of the public. Again this is evidenced at a parade this year when police were attacked and 21 officers were injured protecting the local community and restoring calm to the area.

PUBLIC INTEREST TEST

Considerations Favouring Release

Accountability

The information requested concerns efficient and effective use of resources by PSNI. The proper allocation of resources is a matter that PSNI should hold up to public scrutiny.

Accountability re Public Funds

When public funds are being spent there is a public interest in accountability and justification.

Public Awareness and Participation

Disclosure would enhance informed debate and decision making by the service concerning staff resources. Also disclosure would inform the public debate on the issue of policing and contribute to the accuracy of such debate.

Considerations Favour Retention

Health & Safety

Release of information concerning police resources at any time, taken on its own, or together with other available information, could place police officers at risk of harm by attack. Also disclosure may lead to an increase in the number of disturbances before, during and after parades, not only to parade members but also operational officers on duty.

Efficient and Effective Conduct of the Service

The current, or future, law enforcement role of the PSNI may be compromised by the release of information. A clear link exists between knowledge available to criminal elements and the way they operate with the resultant impact to the PSNI.

Public Safety

Given the above considerations the result of disclosure of the requested information regarding annual parades in rural areas could lead to these being targeted and give rise to disturbances and public disorder thus jeopardising the safety of the public.

Decision

When balancing the public interest test we have to consider whether the information should be released into the public domain and arguments need to be weighed against each other. The most persuasive reason for disclosure is public awareness which needs to be compared to the strongest negative reason, in this case, the need to ensure the efficient and effective conduct of the PSNI in relation to policing at parades and both public and police safety considerations involved in the delivery of operational policing.

Information released under FOI, where exemptions apply, will only be given where there is a tangible community benefit which is more powerful than the harm that could be caused. This does not apply in this case and therefore the information with regard to police resources at parades will not be disclosed.

Question 2

Could you also provide the overall cost of each operation and indicate how comparative this was to the previous five years.

Answer

With regard to the overall cost of each operation I have been advised that the level of detail is high and would require an examination of all parades (80 individual parades in total). This would involve the manual examination of all personnel involved in each parade and the time taken would be well in excess of 18 hours.

To accurately supply the information it would firstly be necessary to identify which parades were policed by PSNI and the deployment of officers at each. It would then be necessary to calculate the cost of individual parades, including overtime, etc. Therefore it is estimated that the cost of complying with this part of your request, including retrieving and extracting the 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 (18 hours).

You may wish to submit a refined request in order that the cost of complying with your request may be facilitated within the "appropriate limit". 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.

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.psnipolice.uk/>

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

DATE	AREA	ORGANISING BODY
7-Jun-09	Portadown	Portadown District LOL No 1
7-Jun-09	Lurgan	Ballynagarrick LOL No 65
13-Jun-09	Portadown	Portadown District LOL No 1 Mini 12 th
14-Jun-09	Portadown	Portadown Royal Black Chapter No 5
14-Jun-09	Portadown	Portadown District LOL No 1
14-Jun-09	Lurgan	Dollingstown LOL No 62 Church Parade
21-Jun-09	Portadown	Portadown District LOL No 1
21-Jun-09	Lurgan	LOL No 237 Church Parade
21-Jun-09	Lurgan	Muckery Heroes LOL No 1685 Church Parade
21-Jun-09	Portadown	Tamnificarbett LOL No 17 Church Parade
25-Jun-09	Lurgan	Lower Iveagh West LOL No 8 Mini 12 th
25-Jun-09	Lurgan	Derrylileagh True Blues LOL No 166
27-Jun-09	Lurgan	Kilmore RBP LOL No 1144 Unfurl Banner
27-Jun-09	Portadown	Parkmount LOL No 127 Erection of Arch
28-Jun-09	Portadown	Portadown District LOL No 1

DATE	AREA	ORGANISING BODY
28-Jun-09	Portadown	Loughgall District LOL No 3
28-Jun-09	Portadown	Portadown District LOL No 1
28-Jun-09	Lurgan	Ballynabraggett LOL No 14 Church Parade
28-Jun-09	Portadown	Ballydougan LOL No 120
1-Jul-09	Lurgan	RBL Somme ParadeDonaghcloney
1-Jul-09	Portadown	ABOD Clounagh
5-Jul-09	Portadown	Loughgall District LOL No 3
5-Jul-09	Portadown	Cloncore LOL Church Parade
5-Jul-09	Lurgan	Waringstown LOL No 83 Church Parade
5-Jul-09	Lurgan	LOL No 230 Church Parade
5-Jul-09	Portadown	Portadown District LOL No (Evening Parade)
5-Jul-09	Portadown	Portadown District LOL No 1 (Drumcree)
10-Jul-09	Lurgan	Lurgan District LOL No 6 Feeder Parade
10-Jul-09	Lurgan	Lurgan District LOL No 6 Mini 12th

DATE	AREA	ORGANISING BODY
12-Jul-09	Lurgan	Lurgan District LOL No 6 Church Parade
12-Jul-09	Portadown	Loughgall District LOL No 3 Clonmakate Rd
12-Jul-09	Portadown	Loughgall District LOL No 3 Derryadd
12-Jul-09	Portadown	Loughgall District LOL No 3 Birches
12-Jul-09	Portadown	Loughgall District LOL No 3 Derrylileagh
12-Jul-09	Lurgan	Magheralin LOL Church Parade
12-Jul-09	Portadown	Portadown District LOL No 1
13-Jul-09	Lurgan	Waringstown LOL No 83 Feeder Parade
13-Jul-09	Lurgan	Dollingstown LOL No 62 Feeder Parade
13-Jul-09	Lurgan	Kilmore LOL No 237 Feeder Parade
13-Jul-09	Lurgan	LOL No 230 Feeder Parade
13-Jul-09	Portadown	Tamnificarbett LOL No 17 Feeder Parade
13-Jul-09	Lurgan	Ballynagarrick LOL No 65 Feeder Parade

DATE	AREA	ORGANISING BODY
13-Jul-09	Lurgan	Lurgan District LOL No 6 Main Parade
13-Jul-09	Lurgan	Donacloney LOL No 5 Feeder Parade
13-Jul-09	Lurgan	Kingshill LOL No 319 Feeder Parade
13-Jul-09	Portadown	Portadown District LOL No 1
13-Jul-09	Lurgan	Magheralin LOL Feeder Parade
13-Jul-09	Lurgan	Ballynabraggett LOL No 14 Feeder Parade
13-Jul-09	Portadown	Clantilew LOL No 101 Feeder Parade
13-Jul-09	Portadown	Ballinary LOL No 14 Feeder Parade
13-Jul-09	Portadown	Battlehill LOL No 395 Feeder Parade
13-Jul-09	Portadown	Cloncore Guiding Star LOL No 84 Feeder Parade
13-Jul-09	Portadown	Derrylileagh True Blues LOL No 166 Feeder Parade
13-Jul-09	Lurgan	Corcreaney LOL No 91 Feeder Parade
13-Jul-09	Lurgan	Blackskull Orange Order Feeder Parade

DATE	AREA	ORGANISING BODY
14-Jul-09	Portadown	Portadown RBP
14-Jul-09	Lurgan	Lurgan RBP No 2
14-Jul-09	Brownlow	Shanehill RBP No 266 Feeder Parade
14-Jul-09	Brownlow	Ballynagarrick RBP No 137 Feeder Parade
14-Jul-09	Lurgan	Waringstown RBP No 1037 Feeder Parade
19-Jul-09	Lurgan	Bannfoot LOL
19-Jul-09	Portadown	Portadown District LOL No 1
26-Jul-09	Portadown	Portadown District LOL No 1
31-Jul-09	Portadown	Derrylileagh True Blues LOL No 166
02-Aug-09	Portadown	Portadown District LOL No 1
02-Aug-09	Lurgan	Magheralin RBP
02-Aug-09	Lurgan	Apprentice Boys of Derry- Lurgan
08-Aug-09	Lurgan	Corcreeny Apprentice Boys & Lurgan No 1 Club Feeder Parade
08-Aug-09	Portadown	Portadown Apprentice Boys Feeder Parade

DATE	AREA	ORGANISING BODY
08-Aug-09	Portadown	Birches Apprentice Boys Feeder Parade
08-Aug-09	Portadown	Apprentice Boys Clounagh Campsie
09-Aug-09	Portadown	Portadown District LOL No 1
16-Aug-09	Portadown	Portadown District LOL No 1
23-Aug-09	Portadown	Portadown District LOL No 1
23-Aug-09	Portadown	Summerisland RBP
29-Aug-09	Lurgan	Magheralin RBP Feeder Parade
29-Aug-09	Lurgan	Donacloney RBP No 67 Feeder Parade
29-Aug-09	Lurgan	Clogher RBP No 139 Feeder Parade
29-Aug-09	Portadown	Derrylileagh RBP No 2 Feeder Parade
30-Aug-09	Portadown	Portadown District LOL No 1