



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-02550

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: POLICE OPERATIONS - ARDOYNE, BELFAST - JULY / AUGUST 2009

Request and Answer:

Question 1

How much did the police operations in Ardoyne on 13-15th July 2009 cost?

Answer

The police operations in Ardoyne on 13th – 15th July cost £422,060.

Question 2

How much did the police operation in Ardoyne on August 8 2009 cost?

Answer

The police operations in Ardoyne on 8th August cost £95,045.

Question 3

I have further asked for the costs to be broken down. I would like to know how exactly those top-line figures are arrived at. By this I mean, although not exclusively, how much of the figure is wages? Also, for example, in terms of costings - are any vehicle costs factored in?

Answer

See below for breakdown of costs.

	13-15th July	8th August
Duty Time	229,558	15,089
Overtime	152,705	70,883
Other Payroll Costs	19,546	9,073
Air Support	20,250	0
Total	422,060	95,045

I have been advised that to calculate vehicle costs would have taken the cost of this request over 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).

In order to retrieve this information, the specific vehicles would need to be identified and the cost of repairs then estimated with the assistance of Transport Services Branch. This would require liaising with the Transport Coordinators

at each location that provided vehicles (in A, C and D Districts, plus Ops Support and Crime Ops Departments), then discussing with Transport Services the actual damage to each vehicle and the estimated costs of repair. This would have added an extra 12 hours to the request, taking it well over the 18 hour limit.

Please note that the costs supplied above are based upon the use of ready reckoners and as such cannot be taken as absolutely accurate, but indicative. Also that the information retrieved and provided refers to "disturbances" and "parades" which occurred within the specified area as I believe this is what you are seeking.

The police operation on 13th was aimed at facilitating people's right to parade, protest, or go about their daily lives with minimal disruption. Unfortunately a small minority of people attacked Police with petrol bombs, bricks, bottles and many other missiles damaging their own community.

The Police response to the violence was graduated, and proportionate to the level of violence they faced. 21 officers were injured protecting the local community and restoring calm to the area. They displayed professionalism and a clear example of proportionate policing in extreme and unique circumstances.

To date seven people have been arrested over the disturbances during the twelfth celebrations in the Ardoyne area. Of these, 3 were charged with rioting offences on 13 July, and 2 were arrested for shooting at police on 13 July (one was released pending further enquiries and one charged). Two people arrested for rioting on subsequent nights have been released pending a report to the PPS.

Footage from all the disorder is still being examined and Police are carrying out a proactive and robust investigation in order to bring those responsible to justice.

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.