



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2009-3522

**Keyword:** Operational Policing

**Subject:** PSNI Reviews of NIO Peace Walls Belfast

### Request and Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full.

### Question 1

I would like to know if the PSNI conduct safety reviews of the 42 NIO peace walls in Belfast?

### Answer

As stated in our clarification request dated 19<sup>th</sup> November 2009 we asked you to clarify what was meant by " safety reviews" whether it was a reference to the actual construction and maintenance of the walls or was it the reviewing the security of the walls. Your clarification of 19<sup>th</sup> November 2009 stated does the police review the continued need for each individual wall within their Districts i.e after a review of the area there does not appear to be a need from a policing perspective for this specific wall.

Yes, the Police Service of Northern Ireland does carry out safety reviews initiated by the Northern Ireland Office and in association with local communities.

### Question 2

Has there in the past been a policy of reviewing existing peace walls from a security perspective?

### Answer

In line with normalisation policy, the Northern Ireland Office is committed to reviewing the security need to retain existing peace line structures in consultation the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), every two years. The most recent review was completed by the PSNI in 2009.

### Question 3

Have you ever carried out reviews of any description of the peace walls in Belfast from a policing perspective?

**Answer**

As stated in question 1 the Police Service of Northern Ireland carry out safety reviews initiated by the Northern Ireland Office and in association with local communities.

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 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](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.