



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-02250

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: POLICING OF RIOTS & VIOLENCE IN NORTH BELFAST

Request and Answer:

Question 1

I would like to know how much has been spent on the policing of riots and violence in North Belfast this year to date or the latest figures available, including costs of staff overtime, extra staff provision, damage to police vehicles and injury to officers.

Answer

I have been advised that Crime Analyst reports indicate that there have been 2384 incidents of violent crime/riots in the North Belfast Policing Area between 1/1/2009 and 16/7/2009. The information in relation to these incidents would need to be transferred to a spreadsheet and manually checked for resources deployed and the time when these were deployed. These details would also need to be cross referenced with the PSNI Duty Rostering System to ascertain overtime incurred. If an estimated time of 5 minutes was spent on each of the 2384 incidents this would take in excess of 198 hours which would exceed the appropriate limit as determined by the Secretary of State under the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

The cost of complying with your request for information would therefore exceed the "appropriate limit" as stated in the Freedom of Information Regulations 2004, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450.

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.

The PSNI have also considered whether we can be of any assistance in terms of helping you refine your request to bring it under the cost limit, however, the nature and structure of the information unfortunately makes this impossible

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 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.