



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2009-02629

**Keyword:** Operational Policing

**Subject:** SECURITY ALERTS SINCE MARCH 2009

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

How many security alerts has the PSNI responded to since March 2009 and how much has responding to these alerts cost the organisation?

#### Answer

The PSNI Command and Control System has **504** incidents recorded for the period March to August 2009 (inc.) whereby the police used the National Standard of Incident Recording codes of either BMBS (Bombs) or SUPK (Suspicious Package).

Security alerts such as these are normal police business and as such are not individually costed, therefore the PSNI do not hold information in answer to how much responding to these alerts has cost the organisation.

#### Question 2

Also, how many of these alerts were hoaxes?

#### Answer

Of the 504 incidents **251** are classified with the code HXEM (Hoax Call to Emergency Service)

It should be noted that this information is not verified and only indicative based on incident opening and closing codes. To provide a guaranteed accurate response, the 504 incidents on the Command and Control System would need to be checked in greater detail. It is estimated that to do so would take 34 hours, therefore exceeding the "appropriate limit" as contained in the Freedom of Information Appropriate Limit and Fees Regulations 2004.

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](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 @ <http://www.psnipolice.uk/>

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