



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2009-01608

**Keyword:** Operational Policing

**Subject:** UNMANNED SURVEILLANCE DRONES / UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE

### Request and Answer:

#### Question

a) the number of times your police force has authorised the use of or made use of unmanned surveillance drones or UAVs in each of the following periods for the purposes of preventing or detecting crime:

i) 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2006 ii) 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2007 ii) 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2008 ii) 1 Jan – 21 June 2009

b) the total cost to your force of deploying these drones in each of those time periods (staff costs, rental, fuel, processing of images etc)

c) the number of unmanned drones or UAVs which are owned by your force.

d) The names of the organisations from which you have rented/borrowed unmanned drones or UAVs during each of the time periods mentioned above.

e) A copy of any rules of deployment used by your force during those time periods.

f) The number of personnel and their rank employed by your force trained to operate or authorise the use of UAVs in each of these time periods

g) The amount of data measured in gigabytes recorded by the UAVs in each of the time periods.

h) The names of all the databases which hold any of the information recorded by these UAVs on your behalf

#### Answer

Searches were conducted however these searches failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

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.