



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2009-02753

**Keyword:** Organisational Information/Governance

**Subject:** POLICE ESTATE - STATIONS

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

I would appreciate the dates of the acquisition of the land as listed below.

#### Answer

Please see attached details.

#### Question 2

Do you know where I might find the construction dates for the police stations?

#### Answer

Estate Services Branch, PSNI will hold these dates or approximate dates of construction and it is my understanding that they will be providing this directly to you.

#### Question 3

Any information on the designs i.e. plans and sections.

#### Answer

This question is fully exempt and the reasons why are outlined below. It is my understanding however that Estate Services may be able to provide some information on certain designs directly to you as per your direct contact with them.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states that fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

The exemption, as well as the factors the department considered when deciding where the public interest lies are listed below:

Section 38(1)(b) Health and Safety

Section 38 is a prejudiced based, qualified exemption and this means it is the Public Authority's responsibility to evidence the harm and a Public Interest Test must be carried out.

These tests are listed below:

## **HARM TEST**

Release of designs or plans of police stations could increase risk to the lives of police officers, staff and members of the public using the buildings. All physical security measures are classified as 'Restricted'. Knowledge of them would, obviously compromise them and would consequently render them either less or non effective. There is a potential for such plans to aid the commission of crime – in this case an attack on one of these buildings.

## **PUBLIC INTEREST TEST**

### **Considerations Favouring Disclosure**

Accountability – The information to be disclosed relates directly to the planning of the buildings used by the service.

### **Considerations favouring Non-Disclosure**

Effective/Efficient Conduct of the Service – Disclosure of the information may reveal vulnerabilities in respect of the buildings used by the Police Service and give the opportunity to certain individuals or groups to use the plans for a possible attack on any of these buildings.

Public Safety – Release of these plans would risk the health and safety of police officers and staff and also members of the public using any of these buildings if they were used for the purposes of criminal damage / attack to any of the buildings.

## **BALANCING TEST**

Whilst the Police Service of Northern Ireland are accountable to the public, open and transparent in relating to their work practices, there are over-riding factors favouring non-disclosure. In this case, the compromise to staff and public health and safety, should the disclosure of this information relating to station building plans, be inappropriately released into the public domain.

At this time the balance is firmly tilted towards non-disclosure.

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 @ [www.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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

<b>PSNI station</b>	<b>Date of acquisition</b>
New Barnsley	16/08/1995
Lisburn Road	01/07/1924
Mountpottinger	30/04/1888
Musgrave Street	07/02/1979
North Queen Street	06/08/1958
Strandtown	24/10/1930
Willowfield	07/09/1929
Antrim Road	14/10/1974
	10/08/1984
	03/11/1978
	06/09/1989
	31/03/1981
	05/06/1978
Tennent Street	01/12/1956
	30/03/1978
Castlereagh	07/07/1954
Oldpark	20/12/1935
	13/03/1987
	20/02/1975
	12/04/1972
	02/04/1993
Grosvenor Road	not known
Woodbourne	09/06/1982
York Road	1923
	1956
	1972
	1975
	1997
Crossmaglen	main part - not known
	09/08/2007
Strand Road	16/05/1969