



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-00120
Keyword: Road Policing
Subject: POLICE TRAFFIC CONES

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

You will be aware the PSNI have the authority/responsibility for the placement of Police traffic cones, sufficient to serve as a "traffic sign" prohibiting or restricting the waiting of vehicles on that road (Roads (Restriction of waiting) order (Northern Ireland) 1982 – Article 3. I am trying to establish the requirements and guidelines as they relate to the placement of police cones in this context. I would be grateful if you could provide me with the following information.

Copies of all internal advice and guidelines relating to PSNI placement of police cones.

Answer

Please find attached records numbered 1888.pdf, which is the relevant section of the PSNI's Roads Policing Manual.

Question 2

Copies of any general advice made available externally by PSNI to other parties and stakeholders that relates to the placement of police cones.

Answer

Please find attached records numbered 1854.pdf, which is advice that was made available recently to the Chief Electoral Officer regarding the placement of cones.

Question 3

Copies of any communications to/from the PSNI and the Department for Regional Development relating to the placement of police cones and restriction/prohibition of parking in Causeway Street, Portrush on 7 September 2008

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. To address this question I approached the local police who were involved in organising this event. They were unable to locate any communications etc relevant to this question.

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

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.psni.police.uk/>

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

Advice on Placing of 'Police No waiting Cones' for the purpose of designating disabled parking facilities outside Polling Stations.

- Cones should be placed approximately 4 – 5 meters apart

Cones should **not** be placed in the following positions:

- Within 15 metres of a junction
- At the entrance to any premises where obstruction might be caused to other road users
- At bus stops, on a bend, near the brow of a hill or hump bridge
- Where it would make the road narrow eg: opposite a traffic island
- Where the kerb has been lowered or the road surface raised to facilitate a pedestrian crossing point

Road Policing Manual - Chapter 20

REGULATION OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC

8. POWER OF CONSTABLE, ETC. TO PLACE TRAFFIC SIGNS

Art 32(1) A constable or a person acting under the instructions or directions (whether general or specific) of the Chief Constable may place traffic signs on or near a road for any of the following purposes –

- (a) preventing or mitigating congestion or obstruction of traffic, or danger to or from traffic;
- (b) warning traffic of a temporary obstruction;
- (c) requiring persons to stop under Article 180(1) of the Order of 1981.

Art 32(2) The power to place traffic signs conferred by Art 32(1) includes power to cause them to be placed and power to place them on a vehicle used for police purposes.

Art 32(3) Article 50 of the Order of 1995 (contravention of traffic signs) shall apply to signs placed in the exercise of the power conferred by this Article.

9. POLICE NO WAITING SIGNS

Temporary portable traffic signs indicating “No Waiting” are available at certain police stations. These may be used for controlling traffic and preventing obstructions during temporary abnormal traffic conditions, ie., during peak periods, in the vicinity of road works, special functions, shows or markets, football matches, or in connection with processions, etc.

These signs are for temporary use only and are not meant to take the place of, or act as permanent signs which are erected by the road authority. The signs must always be placed in position in sufficient time before the event to have the desired effect and should be immediately removed after their use is no longer required. They should not be used during the hours of darkness except in special circumstances and when there is adequate street lighting.

Where necessary signs may be obtained as required from Stores, Seapark.

NOTE: Prosecutions for contravening Police “No Waiting” signs may be brought under:

- (1) Art 32 Road Traffic (NI) Order 1995 – Leaving vehicle in dangerous position. O
- (2) Art 50 Road Traffic (NI) Order 1995 – Failing to obey indication of traffic sign. O.

Breaches of Police “No Waiting” Signs can be dealt with by issuing Fixed Penalty Notices.