



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-02037

Keyword: Road Policing

Subject: TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS INVOLVING POLICE VEHICLES - F DISTRICT

Request and Answer:

Question 1

State how many times did the PSNI accept liability for an accident involving a police vehicle in F District during the last two financial years (2007/08 and 2008/09).

Answer

The Police Service of Northern Ireland accepted liability for a road traffic collision in F District involving a police vehicle 41 times in 2007/08 and 48 times in 2008/09. Please see the appropriate column on the attached spreadsheet which provides details of the collisions and indicates if the officer driving the vehicle was deemed blameworthy (yes/no/not yet known). It should be noted that 'liability' includes not only occasions when a police driver is deemed blameworthy, but also occasions when liability could not be defined (such as when a vehicle is discovered damaged) or when road conditions were adverse (pot holes/ boulder on road /black ice).

Question 2

Please provide full details of the circumstances, who/what was hit, the cost/compensation paid for the damage and the area/DCU where the incident took place.

Answer

Please see attached spreadsheet which details the circumstances of the accidents, cost incurred through damage and the DCU in which the incidents took place.

Searches were conducted, however, these searches failed to locate any records or documents relevant to compensation paid to third parties in relation to these road traffic collisions. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access. Details of compensation payments are not held by the PSNI. The PSNI's insurance company manages claims on PSNI's behalf. It should be noted that monies were not paid out of PSNI funds but from its insurer.

Question 3

Also state whether any disciplinary action was taken.

Answer

The Professional Standards Department of the PSNI has no record of any police officer having been disciplined as a consequence of the road traffic collisions provided.

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 @ www.psnipolice.uk

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

ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS WHICH PSNI CLAIMED LIABILITY FOR IN 'F' DISTRICT 2007/08 & 2008/09

2007/08 - 41 COLLISIONS

2008/09 - 48 COLLISIONS

NOTE - THE COSTS SHOWN ARE NOT DEFINITIVE AS THERE MAY BE THIRD PARTY CLAIMS STILL OUTSTANDING AND POLICE VEHICLES NOT YET REPAIRED FOR THE RELEVANT PERIODS

	CIRCUMSTANCES WHO/WHAT WAS HIT	REPAIRS TO PSNI VEHICLES	COSTS PAID TO 3RD PARTY	DCU OCCURRED	Blameworthy Y/N
2007/08					
1	Police motorcycle hit a section of badly pitted road and the motorcycle flipped onto its offside	£ 2,900.00		Dungannon & South Tyrone	N
2	Two police vehicles were travelling in the same direction, the first one stopped and the second one collided with the rear of it.	£ 1,616.79		Omagh	N
3	Police vehicle lost control on a bend & collided with a tree	£ 3,050.00		Omagh	N
4	Collision with another parked vehicle whilst being reversed.	No damage to police vehicle		Omagh	N
5	Collided with barrier on entering a car park.	£ 596.35		Dungannon & South Tyrone	N
6	Did not properly engage handbrake and vehicle rolled backwards colliding with a barrier in station yard.	£ 2,874.87		Fermanagh	Y
7	Collision with another vehicle whilst being reversed	£ 215.72	£ 1,386.26	Omagh	Y
8	Police vehicle caught the wing mirror of a civilian vehicle whilst overtaking a line of traffic	No damage to police vehicle	£ 249.61	Omagh	Y
9	Driver lost control on slippery road surface and collided with kerb	£ 1,781.47		Cookstown	N
10	Police vehicle reversed into a civilian vehicle.	No damage to police vehicle	£ 3,790.40	Omagh	Y
11	Discovered Damage	£ 967.14		Omagh	N

12	Police vehicle hit a pothole in the road	£	242.75		Fermanagh	N
13	Police vehicle reversed into a road traffic sign	£	716.47		Dungannon & South Tyrone	N
14	Discovered Damage	£	277.00		Fermanagh	N
15	Collided with another police vehicle whilst reversing	£	445.47		Dungannon & South Tyrone	N
	See 15 Above	£	490.78			N
16	Discovered Damage	£	653.90		Fermanagh	N
17	Discovered Damage	£	858.16		Fermanagh	N
18	Police vehicle was reversing and it struck a gate post.	£	37.00		Omagh	N
19	Police vehicle slid to the left and struck a kerb	£	1,074.13		Fermanagh	N
20	Collided with a small wall whilst reversing on a steep lane.	£	324.40		Dungannon & South Tyrone	Y
21	Police vehicle slipped off ramp in workshops	£	1,000.10		Fermanagh	N
22	Discovered Damage	£	412.00		Fermanagh	N
23	Collided with the wall of a house whilst reversing	£	520.00		Cookstown	Y
24	When exiting a driveway the police vehicle collided with a stone pillar	£	467.85		Omagh	N
25	Police vehicle was driving down a laneway when the bumper impacted on the central verge	£	776.23		Omagh	N
26	Collided with a concrete post whilst entering the police station.	£	766.88		Fermanagh	N
27	Discovered Damage	£	323.33		Fermanagh	N
28	Police vehicle struck the kerb whilst being parked	£	613.03		Omagh	N
29	Civilian vehicle travelling in front of police vehicle braked suddenly and police vehicle collided with the rear	No damage to police vehicle		£ 1,948.78	Dungannon & South Tyrone	Y
30	The police vehicle was being reversed when the passenger door struck a wall	£	1,362.57		Omagh	N
31	Discovered Damage	£	1,477.02		Omagh	N
32	While driving down a country lane in the hours of darkness the police vehicle struck a stone	£	951.78		Omagh	N
33	While attending the scene of an earlier collision the police vehicle slid on the icy road and collided with a civilian vehicle	£	2,923.50	£ 27,733.00	Cookstown	N
34	Discovered Damage	£	1,069.71		Fermanagh	N
35	When exiting a car park a collision occurred with a wall	£	791.95		Omagh	Y
36	Police vehicle was reversing out of a parking space when it struck another police vehicle	£	1,677.08		Fermanagh	Y

37	Police vehicle reversed into a lamppost	£	633.33			Dungannon & South Tyrone	Y
38	When exiting the station the police vehicle collided with the station gate	£	825.17			Dungannon & South Tyrone	N
39	Whilst reversing in icy conditions the police vehicle slid and hit a pillar	£	666.00			Cookstown	N
40	Whilst reversing the police vehicle struck a bollard	£	410.39			Dungannon & South Tyrone	N
41	Discovered Damage	£	202.22			Fermanagh	N
2008/09							
1	Police vehicle responding to a 999 call struck a boulder on the road which then flew across the road and struck a civilian vehicle	£	4,016.97			Dungannon & South Tyrone	N
2	Whilst travelling round a sweeping left hand bend the police vehicle lost control and rolled onto its roof	£	3,500.00			Omagh	N
3	Collision involving a pedestrian who was being pursued by other police on foot at the time		No damage to police vehicle			Fermanagh	Y
4	Parked police vehicle rolled back and collided with another vehicle	£	215.60	£	138.00	Omagh	Y
5	Parked police vehicle rolled back and collided with a gate	£	1,733.15			Cookstown	N
6	Police vehicle pulled onto verge of snow covered road to allow another vehicle to pass and slid down the verge	£	1,950.00			Omagh	N
7	Police vehicle turned in central reservation to travel in opposite direction and when accelerating away was struck by another vehicle	£	1,404.56	£	825.00	Cookstown	N
8	Whilst reversing the police vehicle collided with a stone pillar which was hidden by an overgrown hedge	£	882.40			Dungannon & South Tyrone	Y
9	Collision with a parked vehicle whilst being reversed	£	632.48	£	876.26	Fermanagh	Y
10	Police vehicle hit black ice and skidded into hedge	£	650.80			Omagh	N
11	Whilst the police driver was changing a tyre the jack slipped and damaged the sill	£	361.00			Dungannon & South Tyrone	NYK
12	Whilst reversing into a driveway the police vehicle caught a stone protruding from the wall	£	375.00			Fermanagh	N
13	Police vehicle was driven too close to hedge causing minor scrapes to paintwork		Minor damage, not repaired			Dungannon & South Tyrone	N
14	Police vehicle was being reversed when it collided with a lamppost	£	904.32			Cookstown	N
15	Discovered Damage	£	392.00			Fermanagh	Y
16	Collision with metal pole within the station yard	£	784.34			Fermanagh	N

17	Police vehicle was turning in what was thought to be a suitable area but caught a tree stump	£	95.93	Cookstown	N
18	Discovered Damage - wheel arch & quarter panel	£	517.50	Fermanagh	N
19	Police vehicle was reversing out of a parking space when it collided with another police vehicle	£	517.96	Omagh	N
	See 19 above	£	417.16		Y
20	Police vehicle was reversing when it hit a high kerb	£	819.36	Fermanagh	N
21	Whilst turning the police vehicle struck a boulder in the grass verge	£	511.68	Fermanagh	N
22	Discovered Damage - front bumper and livery	£	335.50	Fermanagh	Y
23	Police vehicle struck a mobile road sign when overtaking another slow moving vehicle	£	862.24	Fermanagh	N
24	Collision with a wall within the station yard whilst parking		Minor damage, not repaired	Dungannon & South Tyrone	N
25	Discovered damage - rear bumper	£	717.65	Fermanagh	N
26	When exiting the station one of the gates blew against the police vehicle	£	510.00	Cookstown	N
27	Whilst negotiating a tight entrance police vehicle struck a gate post	£	418.23	Fermanagh	N
28	Police vehicle struck a bollard whilst reversing		Minor damage, not repaired	Dungannon & South Tyrone	N
29	Police vehicle was reversing when it struck a post	£	297.16	Omagh	N
30	Discovered Damage - front driver's wing and rear passenger door	£	859.96	Fermanagh	N
31	Driver lost control on an icy road surface and collided with a pile of stones within a quarry compound	£	654.45	Dungannon & South Tyrone	N
32	Collision with a wall whilst being reversed	£	1,340.23	Dungannon & South Tyrone	N
33	Discovered Damage - rear bumper		Minor damage, not repaired	Fermanagh	N
34	Police vehicle skidded on icy road hitting the verge and then coming to rest in a ditch on opposite side of road	£	1,764.33	Fermanagh	N
35	Police vehicle struck a fox	£	942.76	Fermanagh	N
36	Collision with a wall whilst being reversed	£	950.03	Dungannon & South Tyrone	N
37	Police vehicle was reversing in a narrow country lane, it was dark and raining heavily, struck a concrete post		Not yet repaired	Omagh	Y
38	Police vehicle struck an item on the road that had fallen from a preceding vehicle.			Fermanagh	N
39	Police vehicle struck a wild animal straying on the road.	£	539.42	Fermanagh	N

40	Police driver was attempting to attach trailer to police vehicle when wind blew the trailer against the police vehicle	£	1,381.78		Fermanagh	N	
41	Police vehicle collided with high kerb whilst reversing		Minor damage, not repaired		Fermanagh	N	
42	Collision with a wall within the station yard whilst parking in icy conditions		Minor damage, not repaired		Omagh	N	
43	Underside of police vehicle damaged on a badly maintained private road		Minor damage, not repaired		Omagh	N	
44	Police vehicle struck a rock whilst being reversed		Not yet repaired		Dungannon & South Tyrone	Y	
45	Police vehicle collided with station gate when entering station	£	494.50		Fermanagh	Y	
46	Discovered damage - sill panel and nearside front wheel	£	327.80		Fermanagh	Y	
47	Discovered damage - rear nearside wheel arch		Minor damage, not repaired		Omagh	N	
48	Police vehicle slid into fence when travelling downhill on a road which had been subject to a diesel spillage	£	3,225.00	£	1,025.00	Cookstown	N