



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-00965

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: Discipline In Relation to Deletion of Photos or Video Footage

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.

Question

How many police officers have been disciplined in the last 12 months in relation to the deletion of photographs or video footage taken by members of the public at the scene of arrests or police activity?

Answer

The information sought would be contained within The Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland 'complaint against the police forms' and within files held by Professional Standards Department (PSD) of the PSNI which has responsibility for formal discipline relating to police officers. It is estimated that 3400 complaint forms and 439 PSD files would need to be examined to extract the information sought making the overall cost of retrieval massively exceeding the cost limit. Not taking account of the time taken to locate and retrieve these files, extracting the information at 1.5 minutes per 'file' would take approximately 95.9 hours. This therefore exceeds the "appropriate costs limit" under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice, and the request has therefore been closed.

Under Section 16 of the Act we have a duty to provide advice and assistance and I can advise that the Police Ombudsman of Northern Ireland, the public body responsible for investigating complaints against the police by members of the public, may be in a position to assist you. Please see www.policeombudsman.org for contact details.

If you have any queries regarding your request or this 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 letter.

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.psni.police.uk

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