



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-01271

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: Cost to Police the Holylands on St. Patrick's Day

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

I require information on the costs it took the PSNI to police and control the Holylands area of south Belfast during St. Patrick's day March 17, 2010. I also require what was included in these costs such as vehicles, weapons and any other police gear.

Answer

The policing operation in the Holylands area on St Patrick's Day cost £59,557.36. This included B District Officers, Tactical Support Group, Dog Handlers and Air Support.

For your further information, the PSNI worked very closely with Belfast City Council (BCC) and other partners to make every effort to minimise disruption for local residents and to respond quickly to complaints. The approach was measured and proportionate to what was encountered.

Police Officers were joined by BCC Community Safety Wardens, University Authorities, Student Volunteers, and Voluntary Workers amongst others. The Student volunteers in particular were critical as they worked to defuse any issues before they could become more serious.

We do realise however that many residents still have serious concerns about the level of noise and anti-social behaviour. We are committed to listening to those concerns and, together with our partners, proactively addressing them, not just on St Patrick's Day, but all year round.

There are many good partnership initiatives in place, not only in the Holylands area, but right across South Belfast. This partnership work has led to the installation of 12 mobile CCTV cameras which will be key in tackling anti-social behaviour and criminality in the area.

Progress has been made but there is still some way to go. We are active members of the Holylands Interagency Group working to develop long-term solutions to address the underlying social problems/issues such as the proliferation of Houses of Multiple Occupancy and the Binge Drinking

Culture. This is essential, tackling the root causes of the associated problems rather than merely policing the symptoms on St Patrick's Day.

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 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.