



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-02151

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Incidents Towards the Rear of Knock/Clarawood Housing Estates

Request and Answer:

Question

We hereby request under Freedom of Information Act 2000 details of incidents reported regarding lands towards the rear of Knock/Clarawood Housing Estates.

Answer

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit) to provide you the applicant with a notice which states that fact.

It is estimated that the cost of complying with your request for information would exceed 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 (18 hours).

The information requested is not held in an easily retrievable format. The research required to supply the information entails a member of staff trawling through and reading in excess of 1600 incidents which occurred in the general area to determine which of these incidents occurred the particular area requested. Allowing 5 minutes to research each incident would equate to a total estimate of 133 hours to retrieve the information.

I note similar information was previously provided to an enquirer in 2008. The information provided was pre-prepared as the research had already been conducted by PSNI analysts as part of standard business procedures and outside of the Freedom of Information Act. Therefore cost restrictions were not a consideration.

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.

You may wish to submit a refined request in order that the cost of complying with your request may be facilitated within the 'appropriate limit'. As previously advised in our clarification email dated 6th August 2010, the PSNI's Central Statistics Department hold information on recorded crime and incidents relating to various geographical levels such as station area and address information where completed and available. Therefore it may be possible to identify crimes/incidents for the **areas**

surrounding Knock/Clarawood Housing Estates **but not the playing fields itself**. It may be helpful if you could provide postcodes.

Submission of a refined request would be treated as a new request, and considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, including consideration of relevant Part II exemptions.

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.