



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F 2010 03097

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Crimestoppers

Request and Answer:

Can you please provide me with the following information on the Crimestoppers service in the north of Ireland for the last 5 years:

Can you provide me with the answers to all of the below questions with information broken down (where possible) by:

1) North of Ireland

2) Each of the 8 policing districts

3) Each of the policing areas

a) How many calls have been made to Crimestoppers each year?

b) Of these calls, how many have provided useful information?

c) What is the definition for useful information?

d) Of these calls, how many have led to

i) an arrest

ii) a conviction

e) Can you also provide me with the total cost of the Crimestoppers service over the last 5 years, along with a breakdown of what the costs are made of, eg, advertising, staff, etc

f) How many times has the 'Crime Brief' been transmitted on UTV on Sunday afternoons over the last 5 years, and how much has this cost?

Go raibh maith agat

Is mise le meas

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), 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.

You are asked to note that the Crimestoppers Trust is an independent registered charity and is therefore not subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000. It is the Charity that receives anonymous information and not the police. You can access information that may be of assistance to you by clicking on the below link:

<http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org>

From a police point of view the information that police hold is not retained in an easily retrievable format. A search would have to be carried out per incident, per town or village, per year, and collated into Districts.

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.

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'. 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.

The PSNI have also considered whether we can be of any assistance in terms of helping you refine your request to bring it under the cost limit however due to the nature and structure of the information requested, this is not possible.

Section 16 – Duty to provide advice and assistance

Although excess cost removes the service's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this will be helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

Question 3 (e)

Can you also provide me with the total cost of the Crimestoppers service over the last 5 years, along with a breakdown of what the costs are made of, eg, advertising, staff, etc

Answer 3 (e)

PSNI do not hold this information.

Question 3 (f)

How many times has the 'Crime Brief' been transmitted on UTV on Sunday afternoons over the last 5 years, and how much has this cost?

Answer 3 (f)

The 'Crime Brief' has been transmitted 36 times, at no cost to the PSNI.

If you have any queries regarding your request or this decision please do not hesitate to contact 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.