



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2010-00369

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Dissident Terrorist Activity

### Request and Answer:

#### Questions

1. Details of how many incidents, linked to dissident republicans, police have investigated that have taken place in the last 12 months in Belfast.
2. An exact break down of where these incidents, as outlined in question 1, in Belfast happened.
3. Have any guns/bombs or paraphernalia associated with terrorist activity been recovered in North, West, East or South Belfast in the last 12 months?
4. How many people have police arrested in connection with dissident republican activity in North, West, East or South Belfast in the last 12 months?
5. How many people have the PSNI charged in the last 12 months in relation to dissident terrorist activity?
6. Is North Belfast categorised by police to be a hotbed of dissident republican activity?

These original questions were then subject to clarification and amended to read as follows:

1. The number of shooting, bombing, paramilitary style attacks and incendiary incidents attributed to Republicans in Belfast for the last 12 months.
2. The location in Belfast that these incidents took place.
3. The number of firearms, explosives and ammunition found in Belfast by Area in the last 12 months and exactly where the incidents took place.
4. The number of persons arrested in Belfast under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act attributed to Republicans by Area in the last 12 months, again the exact location.
5. The number of persons arrested in Belfast under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act and subsequently charged attributed to Republicans in the last 12 months.
6. What resources in North Belfast, and in the other areas of Belfast, has the PSNI allocated towards targeting the activities of dissident republicans in the last 2 years.

#### Answer

The decision has been taken not to supply the information you have requested.

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.

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.

In compliance with Section 16 of the Act, Duty to Assist, I can advise you that as a method of refinement, it may be possible to answer, subject to the application of exemptions where appropriate, questions 1 to 5 of your request, (clarified versions). You should bear in mind though, that the attribution of incidents etc., to particular groups may on occasions be based on intelligence and if this is the case then exemptions would be more likely to be applied. On other occasions however, attribution may be based on the individual assessment of an investigating officer, witness accounts or claims of responsibility. In relation to question 6, (clarified version), it may be possible, again subject to the application of exemptions where appropriate, to provide information for the most recent year only. If you do wish to submit this question in a refined request can you please clarify what you mean by the term "resources".

You may be interested in security statistics published on our website which you can access by clicking on the following link; [http://www.psni.police.uk/security\\_situation\\_statistics\\_-\\_district\\_breakdown\\_-\\_fy.pdf](http://www.psni.police.uk/security_situation_statistics_-_district_breakdown_-_fy.pdf)

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](mailto: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](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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