



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2010-02273

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Reports Made To Minority Liaison Officers

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

Please state the number of reports made to the Minority Liaison Officer in Dungannon sector in each of the years 2010, 2009 and 2008. Please provide comparison for Cookstown, Omagh, Northern Ireland and F-District in the same periods.

#### Question 2

Please state the number of prosecutions following reports made to the Minority Liaison Officer in Dungannon sector in each of the years 2010, 2009 and 2008. Please provide comparison for Cookstown, Omagh, Northern Ireland and F-District in the same periods.

#### Question 3

Please state the country of origin of those making reports made to the Minority Liaison Officer in Dungannon sector in each of the years 2010, 2009 and 2008. Please provide comparison for Cookstown and F-District in the same periods.

#### Answer

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.

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.

I was advised that the PSNI Community Safety Branch do not hold records centrally that would assist with a response to your request so I contacted each District in an attempt to collate any information available.

The Minority Liaison Officers (MLO) advised that reports do not directly come to the MLO as they are not an investigative unit but they assist the response officer who is dealing with a Hate Incident.

The MLO also advised that in an attempt to answer your questions they would have to open and

search all hate/motivated incidents crimes recorded with their area.

One district alone advised that they would have to search 429 documents and allowing 10 minutes per search this would take over 70 hours which is well in excess of that permitted by legislation (18 hours). Each document on the crime recording system would also need to be looked at to find out the country of origin of those making any reports.

For your information prosecutions referred to in question 2 would not be held by the MLO and they have advised that the Court Services and/or Public Prosecution Service would be best placed to answer this.

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.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland 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 the nature and structure of the information unfortunately makes this impossible.

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.psnipolice.uk](http://www.psnipolice.uk)

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