



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-02731

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Traffic Collisions and Arrests for Drunk and Disorderly

Request and Answer:

Questions 1

How many road traffic accidents were recorded during the years 2007, 2008 and 2009 that involved collisions between marked police vehicles and civilian vehicles?

Question 2

How many road traffic accidents were recorded during the years 2007, 2008 and 2009 that involved collisions between unmarked police vehicles and civilian vehicles?

Question 3

How many young people under the age of 18 were arrested by your force for being drunk and disorderly or drunk and incapable during the years 2007, 2008 and 2009?

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).

In relation to question 1; to check whether the cars were liveried would require looking up each vehicle on the appropriate PSNI system. The PSNI's Transport Services Department have estimated that this would take approximately 2 minutes per record. For the 929 records involved this would total approximately 31 hours.

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 could be of any assistance

in term of refining your request to bring it under the cost limit. Unfortunately the nature and structure of the information makes this impossible.

Although excess cost removes the PSNI'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 is helpful but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

Answer 1 and 2

The total number of road traffic accidents per year involving collisions between police and civilian vehicles is as follows:

2007 - 354

2008 - 273

2009 - 302

Please note that when a police road traffic accident is reported it is not recorded if the police vehicle is marked or unmarked.

Answer 3

Neither "drunk and disorderly" nor "drunk and incapable" are offences under current legislation. However, separate figures have been provided for young people under the age of 18 arrested during the years 2007, 2008 and 2009 for "simple drunk" and "disorderly behaviour".

Persons under eighteen arrested for simple drunk:

2007: 10

2008: 11

2009: 17

Persons under eighteen arrested for disorderly behaviour:

2007: 386

2008: 375

2009: 364

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.psnipolice.uk

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