



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-01039

Keyword: Finance

Subject: Money Spent on Consultancy Services

Request and Answer:

I am writing to confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information.

I have today decided to:

- disclose information in relation to question 1 in full;
- disclose information in relation to question 2 subject to the deletion of information pursuant to the provisions of section 38 of the Freedom of Information 2000 (the Act).

Question 1

The amount of money spent on consultancy services in the Police Force for the financial year 2009 – 2010?

Answer

The amount of money spent on consultancy for 2009/10 as defined in the Departmental Guidance for the identification of Consultancy Costs was £1,071,256.

Question 2

The names of these consultants (companies only) and where possible a short description of the services provided?

Consultancy in this sense means things such as recruitment consultants, training consultants (e.g. conflict training), security consultancy (e.g. in building security), management and efficiency consultancy etc.

Answer

Please see below the analysis of consultancy spend by type of consultancy work provided. The classifications of work are as defined in the departmental guidance for the identification of consultancy costs.

Firm	Type	Value £
A	Strategic Management	22,869
B	Strategic Management	12,960
E	Strategic Management	19,200
K	Strategic Management	4,687
K	Strategic Management	3,312
L	Economic Appraisal	499
C	Equality Accreditation	4,950
G	Architectural/Planning	113,000
I	Architectural/Planning	18,000
I	Architectural/Planning	150,000
I	Architectural/Planning	142,000
J	Architectural/Planning	3,500
M	Architectural/Planning	5,000
M	Architectural/Planning	17,000
Various	Architectural/Planning	89,000
D	General IS / IT Advice	1,071
F	IS / IT Project and Programme Management	11,125
F	IS / IT Application Development	215,468
H	IS / IT Application Development	237,615
	Total	1,071,256

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states that fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

The company names have been exempted under the following section:

Section 38(1)(a)(b) Health & Safety

Section 38 is a qualified, prejudice-based exemption, and this means that it is the Public Authority's responsibility to evidence the Harm and the Public Interest Test.

Harm

By identifying specific individuals or companies working for the Police Service under the current level of security threat, their personal safety and that of their families and/ or property is put at risk of terrorist attack.

Public Interest Test

Section 38

For Release – Public interest in providing information which could assist in an improved and factual public debate and assist the understanding of how PSNI spend funds for services provided by

outside agencies.

For Retention – Terrorist activity is a real and current threat and the PSNI has a duty of care to protect anyone providing work for the Service.

Any disclosure which may increase the risk of harm being caused to any individual providing a service to PSNI is not desirable. To highlight companies who providing services for PSNI may increase the risk of harm to any individual working for that company and their families.

Decision

The PSNI will not release any information which may endanger an individual's safety. Any outside agencies providing services for PSNI entrust that appropriate decisions are taken with regard to their protection, and the only way of reducing the risk is to be ultra cautious. I believe the prejudice caused by disclosure outweighs the likely benefit to the wider public. At this time, in these circumstances, it is undesirable to provide the names of companies providing a service for PSNI.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the 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.