



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2010-02131  
**Keyword:** Finance  
**Subject:** Cost of the Raoul Moat Inquiry to the PSNI

### Request and Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested.

#### Question 1

How much did PSNI spend in the operation to catch Raoul Moat up to and including the day of his death on Saturday 10 July?

#### Question 2

Please provide a detailed breakdown of the costs that were incurred, i.e. spending on armed units.

#### Question 3

How many officers were deployed by PSNI in the hunt for Raoul Moat?

### Answer

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 it has been decided to refuse access to the information you have requested. Under Section 22 (1) of the Act the Police Service of Northern Ireland is not obliged to disclose information that is held with a view to its publication at some future date. The information you requested is intended to be published by the Northumbria Police Service.

Section 22 is a class based qualified exemption which means that the public interest needs to be considered.

### Public Interest Considerations – Section 22

#### Factors favouring disclosure

Although a publication strategy is currently being compiled there is no firm date as yet for publication therefore disclosure at this time would provide the public with an awareness of how much the overtime bill has cost the public purse to date.

## **Factors favouring non-disclosure**

As stated above this investigation is extremely high profile and is subject to an Independent Police Complaints Commission inquiry into the procedures followed by Northumbria Police throughout their dealings with Raoul Moat and it may be the case that PSNI has a duty to present information to another body or person for scrutiny. Disclosure at this time could undermine the IPCC inquiry. There is no doubt this investigation has been at considerable expense to public funds. As a decision has been made to publish this information in future the spending of additional funds in order to answer this request would not be in the public interest.

## **Balancing Test**

As this investigation is still fairly recent the information held at this time may not include all the overtime submitted for this operation, it may also not be accurate and could change dramatically when eventually published. There needs to be a real and valid reason which identifies a tangible benefit to the public from disclosure of information. In this case a decision has been made to disclose the information when fully collated and accurate. The additional cost to the PSNI to deal with the request at this time would not be in the public interest. For these reasons outlined above the balancing test at present would be to not release the requested information.

If you have any queries regarding your request please write or contact the Freedom of Information Team on 028 9070 0164. Please remember to quote the reference number listed above in any future communications with the Freedom of Information Team.

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.