



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-03220

Keyword: Finance

Subject: Trips Taken by Members of the PSNI

Request and Answer:

Question

I would like to know the following information:

1) How many trips outside Northern Ireland have members of the PSNI been on between 1 November 2005 and 1 November 2010 (inclusive)? I would like this information to include trips to England, Scotland, the Republic of Ireland and Wales, as well as to the rest of the world.

(2) For each of the trips recorded above, I would like to know how much was spent on each (in £ sterling), and I would like the information to be categorised by cost, from highest to lowest in the 5-year period requested.

I would also like to know:

- the date of each trip taken, broken down by year, month and day (if known),
- the rank of the PSNI officer who went on the trip,
- the destination of each trip taken (country/city),
- the reason for the trip, as recorded by the PSNI,
- any other details you hold on the trips taken in this period - whether repeat trips, people visited, number in each party, etc.

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. Much of the requested information is only held on individual travel claim forms which are retained in each individual District and Department. Retrieval of the information would involve a manual trawl of these forms and would be a labour intensive task, multiplied across various locations. Some Districts/Departments have also indicated that not all of the requested information is held.

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 accordance with Section 16 of the Act I have considered whether I 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.

For your information the expenses of Chief Officers, including travel expenses, is published on the PSNI website which can be accessed by clicking on the following link;

[http://www.psni.police.uk/index/about-us/publications/publications-by-category/what we spend and how we spend it/chief-officers-expenses.htm](http://www.psni.police.uk/index/about-us/publications/publications-by-category/what_we_spend_and_how_we_spend_it/chief-officers-expenses.htm)

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.psni.police.uk

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