



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2010-03188

**Keyword:** Finance

**Subject:** Underwater Search Unit Costs

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

The PSNI Underwater Search Unit was disbanded in 2004. Could you supply (roughly estimated) annual costing for this work from 2000 - 2004 prior to the police teams' cessation?

#### Question 2

Annual costs for outsourcing these duties for the period 2004-2010 for comparison purposes.

#### Answer

Searches were conducted which failed to locate records or documents to the level of detail outlined in your request and based on the information you have provided. Accordingly I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold all the information to which you seek access.

To provide an answer to question 1 of your request would require researching and calculating a large amount of information including cost of training courses attended for each relevant individual officer, costs for vehicles and all equipment, salaries for officers and backfill costs.

From January 2004 to January 2006 the PSNI Underwater Search Unit was staffed by PSNI Officers. Records exist of each deployment, however to provide a response to this part of question 2 of your request would require calculating the cost of each deployment. This information could only be elicited from each individual deployed officers' overtime and subsistence forms for each month for 25 months. This would also require establishing which personnel were present at each individual callout or operation.

From the end of January 2006 until 2008 callouts were managed by an outsourced Underwater Search aid based in England. However, on occasion when they were unable to provide aid due to their own commitments, aid was provided by an alternative Underwater Search Unit based in Scotland.

To calculate the cost of these deployments it would be necessary to trawl the records to establish each individual deployment, contact the District who had requested the deployment and obtain from

them the cost of the operation. Additionally, the cost of travel to and from Northern Ireland, accommodation during deployment, meals, subsistence and also the additional cost of PSNI vehicles and equipment and PSNI personnel to accompany the visitors would have to be determined.

As none of the information above has previously been collated, this would amount to creating new information for the purposes of this request. Freedom of Information legislation does not require public authorities to create new information in order to answer a request. Nor does it require public authorities to provide estimations or approximations. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 it has been decided to refuse access to the information you have requested in relation to costing for underwater search provisions from 2008 to present. Section 21 of the Act provides that information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means is exempt information.

Details of the current underwater search provision contract can be found using the following link to the relevant page on the Police Service of Northern Ireland's publication scheme;  
[http://www.psni.police.uk/2008\\_contract\\_awards-2.pdf](http://www.psni.police.uk/2008_contract_awards-2.pdf)

You may also be interested in the paper "Financial Review of Underwater Search Provision within the PSNI" completed by the Police Rehabilitation and Retraining Trust. Please find this attached below. This paper has been provided in accordance with Section 16 of the Act which states that public authorities have a duty to provide advice and assistance to applicants. Some information has been redacted as it is not relevant to your request.

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.



**REHABILITATION  
& RETRAINING TRUST**

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**FINANCIAL REVIEW OF UNDERWATER SEARCH**

**PROVISION WITHIN PSNI**

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## PAGE INDEX

CONTENTS	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NUMBER
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	MATRIX OF PROPOSED COSTS	3-4
SECTION 1	INTRODUCTION	5
SECTION 2	COST OF TRAINING COURSES	6-7
SECTION 3	TIME AND COST OF DIVER ABSTRACTION	8-9
SECTION 4	VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	10-11
SECTION 5	SALARY AND OVERTIME COSTS	12-13
SECTION 6	BACKFILL COST TO DISTRICTS	14-15
SECTION 7	OTHER COST FACTORS	16-17

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND COST MATRIX

This report has been prepared in compliance with the agreed terms of reference and specification supplied by PSNI.

The review is based, as indicated, on the hypothesis of a part-time Underwater Search Unit consisting of ten officers at Constable Rank and with a civilian Dive Contractor at a rate of £262 per day. A unit of ten meets with best practice, and allows for team absences including training courses, court attendance and annual leave, while allowing sufficient members (a team of six) to be available to meet health and safety obligations and comply with the ACPO Manual of Guidance on Police Diving.

The hypothesis is based on a four year cost projection as set out below.

### *Explanatory comments with regard to several of the figures contained within the Cost Matrix.*

- \* The cost of Training Courses in 2007/08 is high at £109,795 however, this reflects the need to train nine new PSNI part-time divers in specific ACPO and HSE courses. The figure for 2010/11 is also high and reflects the three year refresher commitment.
- \*\* The sum of £267,623 for Vehicles and Equipment in 2009/10 is significantly higher than in each of the other years. The reason for this is that the PSNI Dive Lorry will require replacement during this period, after 15 years in use. The cost of replacement is estimated to be in the region of £250,000, but is ultimately dependant upon specification.
- In the Salaries column the figure in brackets shows the total cost to PSNI of ten Constables and is based on the 2006/07 Ready Reckoner figures. The other figure shown in each column reflects the cost of USU 'Training' and 'Deployment' each year, as an element of the total cost shown in brackets.
- The 'Backfill Costs' have been projected, based on the agreed assumption, that each time a diver is abstracted from District for Team Training, Training Courses or Operational Deployment then that person will be replaced within District.

The 'Cost Matrix' reflects all the costs associated with the employment of a PSNI (part-time) Underwater Search Unit consisting of ten members. It does not reflect the cost of the civilian Dive Contractor. This person is currently employed at a rate of £262 per day, and, for a 5 day week has the earning potential over 52 weeks to cost the PSNI the sum of £68,120.

**PROJECTED COST MATRIX FOR THE OPERATION OF A PSNI TEN  
PERSON PART-TIME UNDERWATER SEARCH UNIT OVER A FOUR YEAR  
PERIOD**

	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	TOTAL
TRAINING COURSES	* £109,795	£2,530	-	£41,870	£154,195
VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	£64,474	£68,569	** £267,623	£66,905	£467,571
SALARIES	(£447,480) £216,699	(£447,480) £140,629	(£447,480) £139,280	(£447,480) £171,949	(£1,789,920) £668,557
DISTRICT BACKFILL COSTS	£273,782	£158,126	£156,230	£207,422	£795,560
TOTAL	£664,750	£369,854	£563,133	£488,146	£2,085,883

While included in the overall salary figures as shown above, set out below as specific management information, is the time and cost of abstraction for Team Training and Training Courses in each of the four years.

YEARS	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	TOTAL
DAYS	863	250	240	511	1864
COST	£179,504	£52,000	£49,920	£106,288	£387,712

## **A FOUR YEAR COST PROJECTION FOR THE OPERATION OF A PSNI PART-TIME UNDERWATER SEARCH UNIT**

### **SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION**

The projection will take into account the full costs during the period 2007/8 to 2010/11 associated with:-

- The training requirement
- Abstractions for training and operations
- Salaries
- Vehicles and equipment
- The operation of the USU premises
- Other Integrated Planning Budget Issues

It has been agreed that all calculations and costs will be based on an establishment of 10 PSNI Part Time Divers and that all abstractions from police districts, for either training or operational diving duty, will be calculated to understand the true cost to the Police Service in the overall delivery of this service.

Having consulted with those involved in the management of the Underwater Search Unit it has been revealed that two of the original six constables have retired during the last year. In addition, that three of the remaining four constables who previously carried out diving duties, have indicated that actual diving has resulted in an intolerable amount of stress with an adverse impact on private life, physical and mental health. Only one constable, it seems, remains available for consideration, and these circumstances have been taken into account as part of the costing process. It therefore appears that the costing process must allow for the appointment and training of nine new divers from within the current PSNI establishment.

PSNI Ready Reckoner figures for Police wages for the year 2006/07 have been provided by the Business Manager in Operations Support, and these have been used in calculating the cost of a sergeant and a constable in preparing this cost analysis. The figures are inclusive of housing, compensatory grant and other allowances in addition to ERNI and pension charge elements. This translates into a total annual cost for a sergeant of £54,423 and for a constable £44,748. The daily rate for a sergeant is £247 while for a constable it is £208.

## SECTION 2 - TRAINING

- **Police Diving Courses/ Health and Safety Executive Courses/ Team Training. Projected costs which will be incurred based on 2007/08 price guide.**

### 2007/08

- a) Nine divers to complete initial 'Air Diving' course at a cost £9120 which includes accommodation and all meals. Total costs are therefore **£82,080**, but this does not include the cost of eight return flights for each officer.
- b) Nine divers to complete the initial 'Diving First Aid at Work' course at a cost of £885 which includes accommodation and all meals. Total costs are therefore **£7,965**, but this does not include the cost of one return flight for each officer.
- c) Nine divers to complete the initial 'Entry into Confined Space' course at a cost of £750 for each officer which includes accommodation and all meals. Total cost is therefore **£6,750**.
- d) Two divers to complete training on the 'Interspiro Servicing' course facilitating local servicing of breathing apparatus. Full costs of tuition, travel and accommodation estimated at £1060 for each officer; **£2120** in total.
- e) Training of a deputy Dive Contractor, at a cost of **£630** to include tuition and accommodation, but does not include the cost of one return flight.
- f) Nine divers to complete initial 'Helmsman Boat Training course, which is delivered 'in house' currently without charge.
- g) Ten divers to complete the 'Forensic Awareness' course which is delivered 'in house' by Crime Scene Investigators, currently without charge.
- h) Ten divers to complete two days each month 'Team Training', which is presently, delivered 'in house' at no direct financial cost.

The projected total cost of training courses for 2007/08, but not including the cost of flights, is **£99,545**. During this period a total of 82 return flights will be required, and at an average cost per return flight of £125, this translates into a total estimated cost of **£10,250** for flights.

### 2008/09

- a) One diver to complete refresher 'Air Diving' course at a cost of **£2,280** to include tuition, accommodation and all meals, but does not include the cost of two return flights.



- b) Ten divers to complete two days each month 'Team Training', which is presently, delivered 'in house' at no direct financial cost.

The projected total cost of training courses for 2008/09 is **£2,530** which includes the price of two return flights.

#### 2009/10

- a) Ten divers to complete two days each month 'Team Training', which is presently, delivered 'in house' at no direct financial cost.

#### 2010/11

- a) Nine divers to complete refresher 'Air Diving' course at a cost of £2,280 for each officer, to include tuition accommodation and all meals. Total costs are therefore **£20,520**, but this does not include the cost of two return flights for each officer.
- b) Ten divers to complete refresher 'First Aid at Work' course, at a cost of £755 for each officer, which includes tuition, accommodation and all meals. Total costs are therefore **£7550**, but this does not include a return flight for each officer.
- c) Ten divers to complete a refresher 'Entry into a Confined Space' course at an estimated cost of £400 for each officer. Total costs are therefore estimated to be **£4,000**.
- d) Two divers to complete a refresher 'Interspiro Servicing' course at an inclusive cost of £1060 for each officer. Total costs are therefore **£2120**.
- e) Diver with five years experience to complete 'Diver Supervisors' course at an inclusive cost of **£3805** for tuition, accommodation and all meals, but this does not include the cost of three return flights.
- f) Ten divers to complete refresher 'Helmsman Boat Training' course, which presently, is delivered 'in house' at no direct financial cost.
- g) Ten divers to complete two days each month 'Team Training', which is presently, delivered 'in house' at no direct financial cost.

The total cost of training for 2010/11, but not including the cost of flights, is **£37,995**. During this period a total of 31 return flights will be required, and at an average cost of £125 per return flight, this translates into a total estimated cost for flights of **£3,875**.

*The total cost of training and all flights for the four year period between 2007/08 and 2010/11 is £139,820 and £14,375 respectively, giving rise to an overall total of £154,195*

### SECTION 3 - ABSTRACTION COSTS

- **Projected Cost to the Police Service of Course Attendance and Team Training days in each of the four years**

#### 2007/08

- a) Nine divers to complete initial 'Air Diving' course of 40 days for each officer resulting in a requirement of **360 training days** in total.
- b) Nine divers to complete initial 'Diving First Aid at Work' course of 3 days for each officer resulting in a requirement of **27 training days** in total.
- c) Nine divers to complete initial 'Entry into Confined Space' course of 5 days for each officer resulting in a requirement of **40 training days** in total.
- d) Two divers to complete initial 'Interspiro Servicing' course of 4 training days for each officer resulting in a requirement of **8 training days** in total.
- e) Nine divers to complete initial 'Helmsman Boat' course of 15 days for each officer resulting in a requirement of **135 training days** in total.
- f) Ten divers to complete the 'Forensic Awareness' course of 5 days for each officer resulting in a requirement of **50 training days** in total.
- g) One officer to be trained as the Deputy Dive Contractor resulting in a requirement of **3 training days** in total.
- h) Ten divers to complete 2 'Team Training' days each month resulting in a requirement of **240 training days** in total.

The total projected training requirement for 2007/8 is for **863 days** in order to complete the required initial training programmes set out in the ACPO Manual of Guidance and under Health and Safety Executive regulations. Using PSNI Ready Reckoner figures for police wages the cost to the Police Service of course attendance and team training can be estimated at **£179,504**.

#### 2008/09

- a) One diver to complete refresher 'Air Diving' course resulting in a requirement of **10 training days** in total.
- b) Ten divers to complete 2 'Team Training' days each month resulting in a requirement of **240 training days** in total.

The total projected training requirement for 2008/09 is for **250 days** at an estimated cost of **£52,000**.

**2009/10**

- a) Ten divers to complete 2 'Team Training' days each month resulting in a requirement of **240 training days** in total.

The total projected training requirement for 2009/10 is for **240 training days** at an estimated cost of **£49,920**.

**2010/11**

- a) Nine divers to complete refresher 'Air Diving' course of 10 days for each officer resulting in a requirement of **90 training days** in total.
- b) Ten divers to complete refresher 'First Aid at Work' course of 3 days for each officer resulting in a requirement of **30 training days** in total.
- c) Ten divers to complete refresher 'Entry into Confined Space' course of 3 days for each officer resulting in a requirement of **30 training days** in total.
- d) Two officers to complete refresher 'Interspiro Servicing' course of 3 days for each officer resulting in a requirement of **6 training days** in total.
- e) One eligible diver to complete initial 'Diving Supervisors' course resulting in a requirement of **15 training days** in total.
- f) Ten divers to complete refresher 'Helmsman Boat' course of 10 days for each officer resulting in a requirement of **100 training days** in total.
- g) Ten divers to complete 2 'Team Training' days each month resulting in a requirement of **240 training days** in total.

The total projected training requirement for 2010/11 is for **511 training days** at an estimated cost of **£106,288**.

***The total projected training requirement for the four years, at 2006/07 costing, is for 1864 training days at an estimated cost of £387,712.***

**2009/10**

- a) Ten divers to complete 2 'Team Training' days each month resulting in a requirement of **240 training days** in total.

The total projected training requirement for 2009/10 is for **240 training days** at an estimated cost of **£49,920**.

**2010/11**

- a) Nine divers to complete refresher 'Air Diving' course of 10 days for each officer resulting in a requirement of **90 training days** in total.
- b) Ten divers to complete refresher 'First Aid at Work' course of 3 days for each officer resulting in a requirement of **30 training days** in total.
- c) Ten divers to complete refresher 'Entry into Confined Space' course of 3 days for each officer resulting in a requirement of **30 training days** in total.
- d) Two officers to complete refresher 'Interspiro Servicing' course of 3 days for each officer resulting in a requirement of **6 training days** in total.
- e) One eligible diver to complete initial 'Diving Supervisors' course resulting in a requirement of **15 training days** in total.
- f) Ten divers to complete refresher 'Helmsman Boat' course of 10 days for each officer resulting in a requirement of **100 training days** in total.
- g) Ten divers to complete 2 'Team Training' days each month resulting in a requirement of **240 training days** in total.

The total projected training requirement for 2010/11 is for **511 training days** at an estimated cost of **£106,288**.

***The total projected training requirement for the four years, at 2006/07 costing, is for 1864 training days at an estimated cost of £387,712.***

## SECTION 4 - VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT

Following a very full and comprehensive meeting with the Dive Contractor, currently employed by the PSNI, it has been possible to prepare a projected vehicles and equipment requirement for each of the next four years. Several of these items are included in the Integrated Planning Budget projections for the next four years, however many are not, and have been included to ensure compliance with the current Health and Safety requirements as advocated by the Health and Safety Executive and the ACPO Manual of Guidance governing Police Diving. Equipment requirement is based on a team of ten PSNI Part-Time Police Divers.

### 2007/08

- a) One 6.5 metre Rigid Inflatable Boat. Estimated cost **£30,000**
- b) Twelve Dry Diving Suits constructed of crushed neo-prene. Estimated cost is **£12,600.**
- c) Twelve Dry Diving Suits constructed of membrane rubber. Estimated cost is **£5,760.**
- d) Additional supply items listed in the 2007/08 integrated plan, minus the Side Scan Sonar which is now projected for 2008/09. Cost as provided is **£16,114.45.**

The projected equipment requirement for 2007/08, including the original integrated budget projection for the year is **£64,474.45.**

### 2008/09

- a) One Side Scan Sonar underwater video system. Estimated cost is **£29,700**
- b) Miscellaneous equipment to include fins, harnesses, depth gauges, knives and torches. Estimated cost is **£3,500.**
- c) Personnel Protective Equipment to include, boots, gloves headwear and thermal undergarments. Estimated cost is **£4,200.**
- d) Provision of underwater video camera. Estimated cost is **£5,000.**
- e) Provision of life jackets for boat duties. Estimated cost is **£4,400.**
- f) Provision of diving thermal under suits. Estimated cost is **£1,260.**
- g) Provision of wet weather surface gear. Estimated cost is **£6,600**
- h) Additional supply items listed in the 2008/09 integrated plan. Cost as provided is **£13,909.64.**

The projected equipment requirement for 2008/09, including the original integrated budget projection for the year is **£68,569.64**

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**2009/10**

- a) The provision of one Underwater Search Unit Diving Lorry to be used to transport divers and equipment to the scene of training and operational requirement and support the diving function. Estimated cost is **£250,000**.
- b) Additional supply items listed in the 2009/10 integrated plan. Cost as provided is **£17,623.57**.

The projected equipment requirement for 2009/10, including the original integrated budget projection for the year is **£267,623.57**.

**2010/11**

- a) The provision of 12 sets of Interspiro Divator Breathing Apparatus. Cost is estimated at **£19,769**.
- b) Provision of an Interspiro DP1 Surface Supply Diving Panel. Estimated cost is **£6,005**.
- c) Provision of a 4x4 Wheel Drive Launch Vehicle to replace one which has been in use with the USU since 2002. Estimated cost is **£25,000**.
- d) Additional supply items listed in the 2010/11 integrated plan. Cost as provided is **£16,131.05**.

The projected equipment requirement for 2010/11, including the original integrated budget projection is **£66,905.05**

***The projected cost of the equipment requirement for the period 2007/08 to 2010/11 is £467,572.71.***

## SECTION 5 - SALARIES

For the reasons listed below it is difficult to clarify the exact salary costs for an officer carrying out USU duties:-

- The part-time nature of the USU
- Impact of training on operational availability
- Assuming an increase in divers to ten and estimating the effect
- HSE and ACPO Manual of Guidance on minimum diving numbers for different types of dive
- The requirement to develop teamwork as a largely new team

Taking each of the above factors into account, and accepting that not every diver will attend every call-out, the following assumptions are made in assessing the element of annual wages given over to USU team training and operational deployments:-

- That PSNI divers (on the basis of 2004/05 records) will require to deploy on an average 80 occasions each year
- That each deployment will involve the Dive Contractor and a team of six divers.

This means that each diver will complete approximately 48 deployments each year. The number of days for course attendance and team training each year has already been projected and is set out above.

The most complete year with which to assess average overtime incurred is 2004/05, when the Sergeant-in-charge of the USU incurred 340 hours at plain time. While not every operational dive carried out by the USU will incur overtime, if divers are involved in 60% of deployments then average overtime may be projected at approximately 204 plain time hours, per officer, each year. At the hourly rate of £15.80, this produces an average overtime payment per officer of £3,323 annually. While difficult to be precise for the reasons stated, this figure does fully recognise the increase in the diving team from six to ten officers, and allows for six officers to be used in each deployment. As indicated previously the 2006/07 PSNI Ready Reckoner figure for a constable's wages, including allowances, is £44,748, and this is the figure which will be used to guide the calculations below.

- **Calculation of salary cost for a PSNI ten person USU Team over the four year period between 2007/08 and 2010/11**

### 2007/08

The figures for this period are based on 134 training and deployment days for each diver. In addition, one constable is to complete two days maintenance each week on breathing apparatus and other essential equipment.

- 1 x constable 77% of wages, plus USU projected annual overtime = £37,779
- 9 x constables 37% of wages, plus USU projected annual overtime = £178,920

**Total for 2007/08 is £216,699**

### 2008/09

The figures for this period are based on 73 training and deployment days for each diver. In addition, one constable is to complete two days maintenance each week on breathing apparatus and other essential equipment.

- 1 x constable 60% of wages, plus USU projected annual overtime = £30,172
- 9 x constables 20% of wages, plus USU projected annual overtime = £110,457

**Total for 2008/09 is £140,629**

### 2009/10

The figures for this period are based on 72 training and deployment days for each diver. In addition, one constable is to complete two days maintenance each week on breathing apparatus and other essential equipment

- 1 x constable 59.7% of wages, plus USU projected annual overtime = £30,038
- 9 x constables 19.7% of wages, plus USU projected annual overtime = £109,242

**Total for 2009/10 is £139,280**

### 2010/11

The figures for this period are based on 99 training and deployment days for each diver. In addition, one constable is to complete two days maintenance each week on breathing apparatus and other essential equipment.

- 1 x constable 67% of wages, plus USU projected annual overtime = £33,304
- 9 x constables 27% of wages, plus USU projected annual overtime = £138,645

**Total cost for 2010/11 is £171,949**

*The total cost of wages and overtime for ten divers over the four year period amounts to £668,557. It is highlighted, however, that these figures are based on costs associated with 2007/08 financial year and one might reasonably expect an annual increase of perhaps 2% based on current experience.*



## SECTION 6 - BACKFILL COSTS

### **THE COST TO POLICE DISTRICTS IF ON EACH OCCASION A POLICE DIVER IS WITHDRAWN FOR TRAINING OR OPERATIONAL DEPLOYMENT, THAT OFFICER IS REPLACED WITH ANOTHER ON POLICE OVERTIME**

When the PSNI, and before it, the Royal Ulster Constabulary were much larger organisations it was possible to draw part time police divers from the districts to which they were operationally attached without significant overtime being incurred. This, it seems, was facilitated by placing the officers in posts which were not regarded as critical response roles. These times have now long past and the PSNI is a much slimmer 'fit for purpose' organisation, which can ill-afford to lose officers with regularity from key positions without replacement.

For the reasons indicated above, consultants have been requested to cost the impact over the next four years, of replacing police divers withdrawn for training or deployment, with other district officers on police overtime.

While it is not possible to project, with accuracy, the rate of overtime which may apply in future circumstances, I have for the purposes of this analysis carried out the calculations employing the rate of 'time and a half'.

#### 2007/08

An average of 134 abstractions per officer, to facilitate training and deployment results in a total annual figure of 1340 days, plus an additional 104 days for essential equipment maintenance = **1444 days**. If each day is eight hours and the cost per hour is £23.70, then the potential abstraction cost to districts is **£273,782**

#### 2008/09

An average of 73 abstractions per officer, to facilitate training and deployment results in a total annual figure of 730 days, plus an additional 104 days for essential equipment maintenance = **834 days**. If each day is eight hours and the cost per hour is £23.70, then the potential abstraction cost to districts is **£158,126**.

#### 2009/10

An average of 72 abstractions per officer, to facilitate training and deployment results in a total annual figure of 720 days, plus an additional 104 days for essential equipment maintenance = **824 days**. If each day is eight hours and the cost per hour is £23.70, then the potential abstraction cost to districts is **£156,230**.

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**2010/11**

An average of 99 abstractions per officer, to facilitate training and deployment results in a total annual figure of 990 days, plus an additional 104 days for essential equipment maintenance = **1094 days**. If each day is eight hours and the cost per hour is £23.70, then the potential abstraction cost to districts is **£207,422**.

*The total cost therefore for backfill, arising from the abstraction of officers from police districts for either training or deployment as police divers is **£795,560** to cover a total of **4196 days**.*

## **SECTION 7 - OTHER COST FACTORS**

- **Cost of the Underwater Search Unit Premises**

While enquiries have been made of the Business Manager Ops Support, and the Premises Officer at Lisnasharragh via the Dive Contractor, no details of costs have been made available in connection with rates, heat, light and cleaning services which relate to these premises. It seems apparent that these are included within a larger bill for the entire complex, but are probably not significant bearing in mind the overall size of Lisnasharragh.

- **Divers Medicals**

### **Not relevant to Request**

Medicals for all divers are required annually, and have until the retirement of Dr [REDACTED] been carried out personally by him. I am given to understand these are specialist examinations, which cost approximately £300 for each diver. It would appear therefore that an annual sum of **£3,000** would require to be highlighted in the Integrated Planning Budget for this purpose.

- **Dive Contractor**

In the first five sections of this report I have focused exclusively on the cost implications of employing ten PSNI officers, in carrying out part-time diving duties with the Underwater Search Unit. The PSNI, since the end of 2006, has employed a civilian Dive Contractor through a local recruitment agency. The cost of employing this professional is not included in the figures provided in the cost matrix, but is nevertheless a significant sum which must be taken into account and recorded here. Employed at a rate of £262 per day, for a 5 day week, this individual has the earning potential over 52 weeks to cost PSNI the sum of **£68,120**.

- **Subsistence Costs**

Endeavouring to project subsistence costs, likely to be incurred by divers over a four year period, would normally involve scrutiny of previous records. As divers previously attached to the USU were all with different cost centres for payment, I was advised that it would be both difficult, and time intensive, to provide the details required. Therefore, following discussion with the Dive Contractor, himself, a former USU Sergeant and team leader, it would appear that on average subsistence costs incurred while training, or on deployment, averaged around £10 per day. Using this figure, and applying it to the number of training and deployment days as projected in Section 5 above provides a total of 3780 days, and a potential cost of **£37,800** to PSNI over a four year period.

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- **Provision of Boats by TSG**

The costs outlined for vehicles and equipment at Section 4 of this report includes the provision of a new 6.5metre Rigid Inflatable Boat for use by the USU. It is, however, interesting to note that during 2006 there were seven deployments by TSG supplying boats to assist the work of divers contracted to assist PSNI. Using Ready Reckoner figures for TSG personnel a total cost of **£6,565**, or over £930 per deployment was incurred. Clearly, a USU without access to its own boats would prove extremely expensive in employing scarce officers in TSG at additional expense.

██████████  
Consultant  
PRRT  
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**Not relevant to Request**