



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2010-00069  
**Keyword:** Human Resources  
**Subject:** Gifts And Hospitality Register G District

### Request and Answer:

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

#### Question 1

Can I request details of all Gift & Hospitality Register entries - relating to the receipt of gifts and hospitality by personnel - by members of the PSNI in Derry from April 2007 until the present day?

#### Question 2

Can I request details of all Gift & Hospitality Register entries - relating to the receipt of gifts and hospitality by personnel - by members of the PSNI in G District from April 2007 until the present day?

#### Answer

Please see the table below which contains details of the gift and hospitality register for G District from April 2007 subject to the deletion of information pursuant to the provisions of section 38 of the Freedom of Information 2000 (the Act).

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 exemption, as well as the factors the PSNI considered when deciding where the public interest lies with regard to the release of the table is listed below;

Section 38 (1) (a) and (b) Health and Safety. This is a prejudiced based exemption which means that the public authority must demonstrate that it is satisfied that to release the information would be likely to endanger

- The physical or mental health of any individual; or

- The safety of an individual.

It is also a qualified exemption which means that the public authority must consider the balance of the public interest in releasing the information against the public interest in withholding it.

### **Harm Test**

If information which connects community groups or individuals with the PSNI is released into the public domain substantial harm could be caused to those individuals and their premises/homes. This is because to release the names of groups who have given gifts to members of the PSNI could educate those members of the community who are intent on terrorist crime. Releasing information which implies an individual or group's support of the PSNI, particularly in today's current terrorist climate, could make them vulnerable and subject to attack.

### **Public Interest Test Section 38 (1) (a) and (b)**

#### **For Release**

The information relates directly to the efficiency and effectiveness of the PSNI and its officers, showing the public either positively or negatively that satisfactory policing is ongoing in G District. Releasing the list of the gifts register along with the names of the community groups who donated them would give the public some indication of this.

#### **For Retention**

The release of the requested information has the potential to damage community safety. Recent events have shown that terrorists are actively trying to carry out attacks against members of the public. It is the duty of the police to protect the public from all criminal/terrorist related attacks. To release the names of the community groups who donated gifts to officers could create a loss of confidence in the PSNI to protect the well being of the community.

### **Decision**

Having weighed up both parts of the public interest test, I have decided on balance that it is in the public interest to withhold the requested information i.e. the names of the community groups/details of individuals who donated gifts to PSNI officers in G District. Disclosure would not provide a tangible community benefit but rather has the potential to damage public safety. While the public interest consideration favouring disclosure may carry some weight, it is felt that on balance the health and safety derived from non-disclosure is of much greater importance. It is the duty of the PSNI to protect the public from all criminal/terrorist attacks, consequently, at this time, the public interest test favours non-disclosure.

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.

Date	Details Of Gratuity	Donor	Reason for Gift	Recipient	Retained?
27/6/07	£50 gift voucher from local store	City Centre Business Initiative	Random draw	Area Commander Foyle	No – returned to Donor
12/09/07	M&S £50 gift voucher	Local residents	Appreciation for resolving neighbour dispute	Neighbourhood Police Foyle	No - Donated to Chief Constable's Charity
16/10/07	£150 chq made to PSNI Benevolent Fund	[REDACTED]	Appreciation for Police assistance at national championships	Ops Inspector Foyle	No - Donated to Benevolent Fund
29/10/07	Tin of Biscuits and Sweets	[REDACTED]	Appreciation of police [REDACTED]	Limavady PSNI	Yes – little monetary value – retained on basis of forging community contacts.
17/12/07	17 tins of sweets and 3 bottles of wine	From various members of community at Christmas	In appreciation of police work in the community	To be shared amongst G District personnel	No – donated to local community raffles/draws
8/10/08	£20 cash	From [REDACTED]	Appreciation for crime prevention advice	Crime Prevention Officer Limavady	No – donated to benevolent fund
11/11/08	£40 cash	From [REDACTED]	Appreciation for presentation given to Rainbows	Neighbourhood Police Foyle	No – donated to 999 appeal
17/12/08	Tin of sweets	Local resident	Christmas gift	Area Commander Foyle	Donated to charity
23/12/08	3 x bottles of wine	Local business owner	Christmas gift	Neighbourhood Police Foyle	No – donated to charity
21/12/08	Harrods Chocolate & biscuits	Member of public	Appreciation for assistance following RTC	Response Police Foyle	Yes – retained by officer
27/4/09	£200 cash	Member of public	Appreciation for assistance in civil case	CID Foyle	No – donated to benevolent fund

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27/8/09	£27 cash	Local Community Group	Gratitude for community police involvement	Neighbourhood Police	No – donated to benevolent fund
16/9/09	£50 'NEXT' Gift voucher	Member of public	Gratitude for police investigation	CARE Unit	No – returned to Donor