



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-01672

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Body Worn Cameras

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 and the answers to your questions are as follows.

Question 1

How many Body Worn cameras (BWC's or Head Cameras) do Police Service of Northern Ireland currently own and/or operate.

Question 2

How much did Police Service of Northern Ireland spend procuring BWC's and all accompanying operating equipment.

Question 3

If any of Police Service of Northern Ireland's BWC's were bought using the Home Office £3 million grant, how much of that £3 million did Police Service of Northern Ireland receive.

Question 4

How long does Police Service of Northern Ireland store video and/or sound evidence before it is deleted.

Question 5

How many successful convictions have occurred in which Police Service of Northern Ireland's BWC's formed part of the Court evidence? Please note I am not asking for details of the defendants or the case itself.

Answer

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide information (because the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit) to provide you the applicant with a notice which states that fact.

It is therefore 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 (18 Hours).

The information requested in question 5 is not readily accessible by the PSNI. To retrieve this information from all districts would require the investigating officer to examine each case where BWC evidence was used and identify the outcome. One district alone would be required to examine 80 cases which would take in excess of 18 hours.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice in relation to question 5 and has therefore been closed.

Although excess cost removes the PSNI's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, I have provided below the information which was retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

Answer 1

The PSNI currently own and/or operate 98 BWC Kits.

Answer 2

The approximate cost of BWC's and operating equipment is £88,827.04.

PSNI do not hold this information centrally. To determine the costs incurred it was necessary to contact all districts and collate their responses. The costs recorded by the districts were varied i.e. approximate values, amounts with vat inclusive and amounts with vat exclusive, therefore the total figure is an approximate amount.

Answer 3

The PSNI did not use any of the Home Office Grant to purchase BWC's.

Answer 4

Non-evidential footage is deleted after 31 days, in accordance with current ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) guidelines.

Evidential footage is retained until the completion of the case, in accordance with Criminal Procedures and Investigation Act – 'Retention of Material', paragraph 5, sub-section 7 - 10 which can be accessed via the website link below:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/uksi_20080648_en_1

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.psni.police.uk

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