



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2010-02326

**Keyword:** Operational Policing

**Subject:** The PSNI's Current Fleet of Landrovers

### Request and Answer:

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

I have today decided to:

- disclose records in relation to questions 2 to 4 in full; and
- fully exempt records in relation to question 1 pursuant to the provisions of section 31 of the Act.

### Question 1

I would like to know how many Land Rovers are currently in use by the force, and how many are out of service - waiting to undergo repair?

### Answer

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.

It has been decided not to release details of the current fleet of Land Rovers or numbers of Land Rovers out of service. The exemption/s, as well as the factors the department considered when deciding where the public interest lies are listed below;

Section 31 (1) (a) (b) and (c) – Law Enforcement

Section 31 is a qualified and prejudice-based exemption. This means that the public authority must produce evidence of what prejudice may be caused and outline the public interest considerations.

### **Harm test**

Armoured Land Rovers are a security fleet and a specialist vehicle and to release details of their numbers could compromise the security and operation of the PSNI. For example, if it is seen that the numbers of vehicles currently in use was low and the number out of service was high it would suggest that the capability of the fleet was weak. This could give criminals an opportunity to take advantage of this situation and commit more crime.

### **Public Interest Test**

#### **For Release**

Release of this information could lead to better knowledge of police resources, how public money is spent in repairing Armoured Land Rovers and could enable the public to take steps to protect themselves.

#### **For Retention**

Disclosure would reveal resource levels and capabilities within PSNI. This could compromise law enforcement tactics which would lead to more crime being committed and individuals being placed at risk.

#### **Decision**

The PSNI has a duty to fulfil its law enforcement function and whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing activities and the appropriateness of how public funds are allocated, the delivery of effective law enforcement is of paramount importance. The Police Service will not disclose information, no matter how generic, if to do so would undermine the prevention or detection of crime, the apprehension or prosecution of offenders and the administration of justice. Therefore, at this time, it is our opinion that for these reasons the information should not be disclosed.

### **Question 2**

I would also like to know how many police vehicles have had repairs carried out in the last year (August 16 2009 - August 16 2010) and how much this cost.

#### **Answer**

During this period 2014 vehicles had repairs carried out. (Please note that this figure includes motorcycles and water cannons). The total cost was £3,479,411

### **Question 3**

I would like to know how old the current fleet of Land Rovers is, and if there are any plans to replace them? If so, how much would a replacement fleet cost?

#### **Answer**

The Armoured Land Rover (ALR) fleet has vehicles dating back to 1986. It is planned to replace ALR fleet over the next five to six years depending on the capital allocation process within PSNI priorities.

The capital cost to replace the ALR fleet depends on police operational specification and manufacturer provision to supply. At this stage an outline estimate for replacement costs would suggest a range variance of £25m to £30m.

### **Question 4**

Finally, I would like to ask police for comment on several Land Rovers breaking down during the Ardoyne riots of July 12 and 13 this year. Could you confirm how many Land Rovers broke down

during the disturbances and why this took place?

**Answer**

There were no mechanical breakdowns of any Land Rovers at Ardoyne on 12 and 13 July. Three Landrovers were immobilised due to all four tyres on each one being punctured during rioting.

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](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.