



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2010-02459

**Keyword:** Operational Policing

**Subject:** Cost of Loyal Order Parades

### 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

I am writing to make an open government request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act. In order to assist you with this request, I am outlining my query as specifically as possible. If however this request is too wide or too unclear, I would be grateful if you could contact me as I understand that under the Act, you are required to advise and assist requesters.

I wish to find out how much policing the Loyal Order parades in North Belfast cost the PSNI this summer (from 1 June 2010 to 31 August) in total.

I would also like a breakdown of these figures for the different parades:

- a. The Tour of the North
- b. Ardoyne on 12 July (including the four days of rioting that followed)
- c. All North Belfast parades (excluding Ardoyne) on 12 July
- d. Ardoyne Apprentice Boys parade (14 August)
- e. Ardoyne Royal Black Preceptory parade (28 August)
- f. Whitewell Royal Black Preceptory parade (28 August)

I understand that under the Act, I should be entitled to a response within 20 working days. I would be grateful if you could confirm in writing that you have received this request. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

### 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 (18 hours).

The information requested is not readily accessible by the PSNI. In order to provide the total cost, it would be necessary to make enquiries with various departments ie Air Support, Tactical Support Groups and other Districts.

PSNI recording systems do not hold the basic hours performed by officers. To calculate the manpower cost alone would require a manual trawl of all duty records to identify the officers who performed duty and add the basic hours to the overtime hours worked. This process alone would take approximately 49 hours and would greatly exceed the 18hours limit.

Further information in relation to policing costs during July parades can be accessed via the PSNI website using the link provided below:

[http://www.psni.police.uk/cost\\_of\\_police\\_rioting.pdf](http://www.psni.police.uk/cost_of_police_rioting.pdf)

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.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland has also considered whether we 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.

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](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.