



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-03006

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Cost of Policing Parades in County Armagh

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.

Question 1

I wish to have the following information provided to me and that this request be treated as a Freedom of Information request and dealt with under your Freedom of Information guidelines.

The total cost of policing parades that have taken place in Keady, Co Armagh during (1) 2008, (2) 2009 and (3) 2010.

Question 2

The total cost of policing parades that have taken place in Richill, Co Armagh during (1) 2008, (2) 2009 and (3) 2010.

Question 3

The total cost of policing parades that have taken place in Armagh City, Co Armagh during (1) 2008, (2) 2009 and (3) 2010.

I hope you find this information satisfactory and trust that this information can be provided within the dedicated time frame.

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 you have requested is not easily accessible by the PSNI. Your request relates to most of the Armagh police area and there are approximately 250 parades per year in this area. It would take at least 30 minutes to research each of the 750 parades over the 3 years. Therefore it would take approximately 375 hours to retrieve this information. This would greatly exceed the cost limit of 18 hours.

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 PSNI has also considered if it can be of assistance in helping you to refine your request to bring it under the request limit. If you refined your request to one of the smaller areas ie Keady or Richhill, **for a one year period** it may be possible to retrieve information within the cost limit. However, to provide information for Armagh City would again be in excess of the 18 hours limit.

If you may wish to submit a refined request in order that the cost of complying with your request may be facilitated within the 'appropriate limit'. Submission of a refined request would be treated as a new request, and considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, including consideration of relevant Part II exemptions.

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.

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.psnipolice.uk

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