



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2010-00015

**Keyword:** Operational Policing

**Subject:** OFFICERS ON "POINT DUTY" FOR EVENTS DURING 2009

### Request and Answer:

#### Question

Can you please provide an approximate number of hours spent by officers on "point duty" for any events during the year 2009.

By this I mean static positions directing traffic (for example at junctions).

By event I mean a local authority or commercial organisation which held a gathering of the public irrespective of police time was charged to organisers or not.

For example music concerts, parades, carnivals, festivals (of any kind) etc would also be considered events for the purposes of this FOI request.

#### Answer

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.

This information is not held centrally and so the Police Service of Northern Ireland's eight District Command Units were canvassed as to whether they held any information with regard to your request, and for cost estimates in retrieving this information, if held.

I should draw your attention to the fact that there is no standardised way to collate the requested information within the different Districts which is why some Operational Planning Officers may be able to retrieve the information and provide a response within the time permitted under FOI legislation and other larger districts would have to carry out prolonged manual searches of Operational Orders. For example, 'A' District had approximately 370 events in 2009. To retrieve the required information would entail looking in the Operational Order for each event to ascertain the type and duration of the event, the duties and the number of officers involved. This would take on average 20-30 minutes per Operational Order, equating to at least 150 hours for this District alone.

Because of this, to provide a response to your request would entail the extensive utilisation of resources costing well in excess of the "appropriate limit" of £450 (18 hours) laid down by the

secretary of state.

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 have 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.