



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-01977

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: The Planning of the Policing Operation on 12 July in Ardoyne

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. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full.

Question 1

Can the PSNI confirm or deny that a decision was taken prior to the 12th July that NO arrests would be made at Ardoyne on the day?

Answer

I can confirm that recorded information held regarding police intentions for 12 July Operation do not indicate that a decision was taken prior to the 12th July that NO arrests would be made at Ardoyne on the day.

Question 2

Can you provide me with details of the planning for the policing operation in Ardoyne on the 12th of July - I understand some of this information may be sensitive and could be used by rioters in future public disorder situations. I do believe the PSNI could provide some details - ie number of meetings the people involved in those meetings - number of officers to be deployed - instructions given to police officers.

Answer

I have answered this question in three parts as follows:

Number of meetings the people involved in those meetings

POLICE

8 June 2010 - Tactical Planning Meeting with Bronze, Crimson and Unit Commanders and Operational Planning (approximately 10 police officers present)

5 July 2010 - Silver Planning Meeting with Silver, Bronze and Unit Commanders, Operational Planning, Senior Investigating Officer and representatives from various specialisms (approximately 30 police officers present)

6 July 2010 - Tactical Planning Meeting with Bronze, Crimson and Unit Commanders and Operational Planning (approximately 10 police officers present)

11 July 2010 - Silver Planning Meeting with senior officers involved in Bronze and Crimson roles (approximately 8 police officers present)

12 July 12 45pm - Tactical planning meeting with Crimson COT and unit commanders to review the morning event and review options for the evening Approx 20 persons present)

PUBLIC

6 July 2010 - Crumlin and Ardoyne Residents Association (CARA) with senior police officers

11 July 2010 - Crumlin and Ardoyne Residents Association (CARA) with Bronze Commander

These were all significant and often prolonged formal discussions, however it should be noted that regular telephone conversations took place in the week prior to the 12th of July 2010 with a wide range of local community representatives, clergy and political leaders.

Number of officers to be deployed

Morning parade 550. Evening parade 700.

Instructions given to police officers

Silver Commanders strategic intentions

1. Take all reasonable steps to prevent disorder and minimise the risk to public police, paraders, protestors (both notified and not notified) and those involved in violence.
2. Uphold the Human Rights of all with particular reference to Art 2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10,11
3. Uphold the determination of the Parades commission.
4. Engage with communities to achieve a peaceful outcome.
5. Minimise disruption to the community and facilitate a quick return to normality.
6. Detect persons committing criminal offences.
7. Adopt the lowest profile in the circumstances but retain the capability to deal with the worst eventualities.
8. Use all available intelligence to develop an understanding of the intentions of all involved.

In addressing these intentions key principles will be followed.

1. All actions will be lawful.
2. All actions must pursue a legitimate aim.
3. All actions must be necessary in a democratic society.
4. The test of ABSOLUTE NECESSITY will underpin any lethal or potentially lethal use of force.
5. Any use of force will be PROPORTIONATE and the MINIMUM necessary in the circumstances.

Question 3

Did the Chief Constable discuss the policing operation to be put in place in Ardoyne on the 12th of July with the policing board prior to the 12th?

Answer

No. The Chief Constable is operationally responsible for directing and controlling the police.

Question 4

Did the Chief Constable discuss the policing operation to be put in place in Ardoyne on the 12th of July with the OFMDFM prior to the 12th?

Answer

No. The Chief Constable is operationally responsible for directing and controlling the police.

Question 5

Can the PSNI confirm or deny that when water cannons are deployed in public order situations that they aren't being used at full power?

Answer

Whilst operationally deployed the water cannon will operate at a variety of pressures. This can include full power. The operator will select the pressure dependant on the circumstances pertaining at the time of use.

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.