



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-02608

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Cost of Policing Parades in Co Armagh 2008, 2009 and 2010

Request and Answer:

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

Question 1

The cost of Policing Parades and the number of Police Personnel on the ground for each individual parade, that have taken place in Keady, Co Armagh during (1) 2008, (2) 2009 and (3) 2010?

Question 2

The cost of Policing Parades and the number of Police Personnel on the ground for each individual parade, that have taken place in Armagh City, Co Armagh during (1) 2008, (2) 2009 and (3) 2010?

Question 3

The cost of Policing Parades and the number of Police Personnel on the ground for each individual parade, that have taken place in Markethill, Co Armagh during (1) 2008, (2) 2009 and (3) 2010?

Question 4

The cost of Policing Parades and the number of Police Personnel on the ground for each individual parade, that have taken place in Tandragee, Co Armagh during (1) 2008, (2) 2009 and (3) 2010?

Question 5

The cost of Policing Parades and the number of Police Personnel on the ground for each individual parade, that have taken place in Killylea, Co Armagh during (1) 2008, (2) 2009 and (3) 2010?

Question 6

The cost of Policing Parades and the number of Police Personnel on the ground for each individual parade, that have taken place in Loughgall, Co Armagh during (1) 2008, (2) 2009 and (3) 2010?

Question 7

The cost of Policing Parades and the number of Police Personnel on the ground for each individual parade, that have taken place in Richhill, Co Armagh during (1) 2008, (2) 2009 and (3) 2010?

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.

E District have advised that there are 250 plus parades in the Armagh area, including feeder parades. A database is now used to collate this type of information but has only commenced in 2010. To retrieve this information for 2010 would take an estimated time of 63 hours. Pre 2010 each individual operational order would be required to be manually checked, this would be significantly more time consuming and is estimated at 30 minutes per parade totalling 125 hours per year to retrieve. The estimated time to retrieve, extract and collate all this information would take approximately 313 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 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 due to the structure and nature of your request 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.

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.