



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-02846

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Post Public Procession Return

Request and Answer:

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

I have today decided to:

- disclose records subject to the deletion of information pursuant to the provisions of section 38 of the Freedom of Information 2000 (the Act)

Question

Under the Freedom of Information Act, we wish to apply for a copy of the PSNI post parade report, concerning our feeder parade from the Worshipful Master's home at Grange Crescent, Bangor to Bangor Orange Hall on the morning of Saturday 28 August 2010.

Answer

Please see the 'Post Public Procession Return' document provided at the end of this correspondence.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states that fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

The information you have requested contains names of staff members and private address details which have been exempted pursuant to the provisions of Section 38 of the Freedom of Information Act.

The exemption as well as the factors the department considered when deciding where the public interest lies are listed below:

Section 38 (1) (a)(b) – Health & Safety, is a prejudiced based, qualified exemption, this means that it is the public authority's responsibility to evidence the harm and carry out a public interest test.

A summary of the Harm along with the Public Interest Test is provided below:

Harm

Disclosure of PSNI staff names and details contained in the documentation for administrative purposes only, could put individuals at risk and impact on their safety. The Service is currently under threat from Dissident Republicans and releasing names of personnel could assist terrorists in targeting individuals. Dissidents have been responsible for a number of recent attacks and have targeted police officers with under car booby trap devices. The Independent Monitoring Commission (IMC) in its 23rd report has stated that the Real IRA and the Continuity IRA were continuing to recruit and train members, acquire weapons and target potential victims, with police officers the main focus of their activities.

Releasing the address details of a member of the public could also risk the safety of the homeowner and leave them vulnerable to sectarian motivated attacks.

PUBLIC INTEREST TEST

Factors Favouring Release - Section 38

Releasing the information would promote openness and transparency. The public would be better informed about the decision making process and the personnel involved.

Factors Favouring Retention - Section 38

Releasing the names of police officers into the public domain would assist terrorists and criminal elements to use a mosaic approach and link all information available to them to carry out attacks on PSNI personnel on or off duty. Disclosure of address details of a member of the public could risk the safety of the homeowner and leave them vulnerable to sectarian motivated attacks.

Decision

I have determined that the release of names of PSNI staff details and the private address of a member of the public, into the public domain would not be in the public interest. The Service is currently under severe threat from Dissident Republicans and disclosure of this information has the potential to assist those criminal elements seeking to carry out attacks against police officers and members of the public.

The safety of individuals is of paramount importance and the PSNI will not divulge any information which could put lives or property at risk.

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.



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NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED
POST PUBLIC PROCESSION RETURN
FACSIMILE MESSAGE

To Police Service of Northern Ireland Parades Commission Liaison Officer

From Ops Planning Office, Bangor
s.F38

Fax [REDACTED] s.F38(1) Pages This + 0

Phone [REDACTED] s.F38(1)(a) Date Fri 24/09/10

Re Post Procession Return in relation to: Henry Wilson Temperance RBP 1104
s.F38(1)(b)

Date, Time and Venue of Procession 28th August 2010 - 08:15 - 08:45hrs, Bangor, Co Down

Organisation[s] involved RBP

Was a determination by the Commission issued? Yes No

Was there a protest meeting involved? Yes No

Please give a brief résumé of the procession including numbers of bands and marchers, any disorder/breaches of codes of conduct by procession and/or protesters. [Please include any significant damage to property etc.]

Henry Wilson Temperance RBP 1104 along with the Robert Graham Memorial Flute Band marched from [REDACTED] Bangor via the Brunswick Road, Abbey Street, Main Street to meet with other lodges at Hamilton Road Orange Hall before forming up and marching around Bangor. Police on duty with this feeder parade report no unreasonable behaviour at any stage of the event. The band remained silent whilst passing the chapel on the Brunswick Road as agreed locally.

s.F38
s.F38(1)
s.F38(1)(a)
s.F38(1)(b)

Were any arrests effected? Yes No

What were the arrests for? (please specify) N/A

Are any follow up arrests planned? Yes No

If prosecutions follow an update must be submitted in due course.

Contact Name [REDACTED] s.F38 Rank Constable

Station Bangor s.F38(1) Tel No [REDACTED]

s.F38(1)(a)

s.F38(1)(b)