



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-00257

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Stop and Search Figures for Strabane

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 and the answer to your question is as follows:

Question 1

I carried a story in the Strabane Chronicle this week, January 28 about stop and search figures for Strabane.

From July 1 to September 30 2009, 1,308 stop and searches were carried out in Strabane.

Under the freedom of information act, can I find out how many different individuals were actually searched?

By this I mean were 1,308 different people searched or were the same people checked more than once over the July 1 to September 30 period?

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.

When a search form is completed/retained a running total is collated on a local spreadsheet. The details of the search form are however not entered onto the spreadsheet. To provide a total would be possible within appropriate cost limits, as it only requires a check of the running total. To provide a breakdown of who was stopped more than once would require a manual trawl of each search form, which would be a labour intensive and time consuming task.

However, I am able to advise that, out of the 1308 searches, some of these were the same persons who would have been searched on more than one occasion.

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.

I have considered whether I 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 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.