



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2010-01572

**Keyword:** Operational Policing

**Subject:** Unpaid Money Warrants

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

Please state how much was left outstanding from money warrants in Northern Ireland in each of the years 2009, 2008, 2007 and 2006. Please provide comparison for the same years for the Dungannon, Cookstown and Omagh sectors and F-District.

#### Question 2

Please state how much was paid in money warrants in Northern Ireland in each of the years 2009, 2008, 2007 and 2006. Please provide comparison for the same years for the Dungannon, Cookstown and Omagh sectors and F-District.

#### Question 3

Please state how many people were jailed for the non-payment of money warrants in Northern Ireland in 2009, 2008, 2007 and 2006. Please provide comparison for the same years for the Dungannon, Cookstown and Omagh sectors and F-District.

#### Question 4

Please state the highest money warrant that was left unpaid in Dungannon sector in each of the years 2009, 2008 and 2007. Please provide comparison for Cookstown and F-District.

#### Question 5

Please state how many people in Northern Ireland are in jail at present for non-payment of money warrants. Please provide comparison for Dungannon and F-District.

#### 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.

The information you requested is not held centrally within the Police Service of Northern Ireland. Electronic Management of Warrants began in November 2009. Prior to this each District Command Unit had its own manual system for managing outstanding warrants. Therefore, Warrant Officers and Occurrence and Case Management Teams (OCMTs) in each of our eight District Command Units

had to be contacted in an attempt to retrieve any available information.

There was no standardised way to collate the requested information within different Districts which is why some Warrant Officers and OCMTs may be able to retrieve the information and provide a response within the time permitted under FOI legislation and others would have to carry out prolonged manual searches.

I have been advised that to retrieve the information for one District alone would take an estimated 21 hours and would involve checking over 1500 paper warrants.

Therefore 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 (18 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.

You may wish to submit a refined request in order that the cost of complying with your request may be facilitated within the ‘appropriate limit’. It may be possible to retrieve the information for **one** of the following District Command Units; B, D, E **or** H, however, the remainder have indicated that this would be unachievable within the time constraints. Submission of a refined request would be treated as a new request, and considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, including consideration of relevant Part II exemptions.

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.psnipolice.uk](http://www.psnipolice.uk)

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.