



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-02272
Keyword: Road Policing
Subject: Dangerous / Careless Driving in F District

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

Please state the number of arrests and the number of prosecutions made for i) dangerous driving and ii) careless driving in Dungannon sector in each of the years 2010, 2009 and 2008. Please provide comparison for Cookstown and F-District in the same periods.

Question 2

Please state which brand/make of vehicle has been most commonly used in i) dangerous driving and ii) careless driving in Northern Ireland in each of the years 2010, 2009 and 2008. Please provide comparison for Cookstown, Dungannon and F-District in the same periods.

Question 3

Please state the brands/makes of vehicles and a breakdown of the number of each brand/make driven by people prosecuted for i) dangerous driving and ii) careless driving in Dungannon sector in each of the years 2010, 2009 and 2008. Please provide comparison for Cookstown and F-District in the same periods.

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.

In relation to vehicle details, there are over 5,000 vehicles that are linked to the dangerous driving/careless driving occurrences in 2008, 2009 and 2010. Each occurrence would need to be manually trawled to check the classification of the vehicle, and also the details would need to be examined to ensure that the vehicle was actually used for a dangerous driving offence and was not

indirectly linked to the incident, e.g. as a victims vehicle, witnesses vehicle, police vehicle etc. It is estimated that this alone would take approximately 416 hours to retrieve.

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 apart from what has already been provided below, due to the structure and nature of this request makes this impossible.

Although excess cost removes the service's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request in relation to question one, retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this will be helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

Please see tables below showing Prosecutions and Arrests for Dangerous and Careless Driving in F District.

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.

Dangerous Driving

Area	Number of Prosecutions		
	2008	2009	2010
Dungannon	10	3	3
Cookstown	2	4	3
F District	32	14	17

Number of Arrests		
2008	2009	2010
24	17	7
11	12	6
67	70	36

Careless Driving

Area	Number of Prosecutions		
	2008	2009	2010
Dungannon	42	13	25
Cookstown	31	26	12
F District	191	89	90

Number of Arrests		
2008	2009	2010
5	2	2
2	1	0
40	41	14