



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-03183
Keyword: Road Policing
Subject: Revenue and Costs of Speed Checking

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 answers to your questions as follows.

Question 1

Can you please provide me with the following information for each of the last five financial years, broken down by DCU and ACU:

The total revenue generated by speeding tickets

Question 2

The total cost of operating speed checking mobile police/patrol units

Question 3

The profit/loss made by the PSNI from operating speed checking units

Question 4

What this profit (if any) has been spent on?

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 (18 hours).

In relation to questions 2 and 3 of your request, the information is not held centrally. Retrieval of the information would require the examination of **all** district budget records to identify every incident of speed enforcement conducted by police ie specific operations by Road Policing, District Officers and also any 'ad hoc' enforcement conducted. In addition, vehicle and equipment costs would have to be sourced and included in the calculations. This process would take approximately 30 hours and

greatly exceed the 18 hour cost limit.

The PSNI has also considered if it can assist to help you refine your request to bring it under the cost limit, however the nature and structure of the information unfortunately makes this impossible.

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.

Although excess cost removes the PSNI's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, I have provided below the information which was retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

Answer 1

Revenue from speeding tickets i.e. those issued by police officers at the roadside, is recouped by Treasury via the Northern Ireland Courts. Therefore, the PSNI do not hold this information. It is only revenue generated by Safety Camera detections that can be reinvested in Road Safety. However, I have provided information regarding the revenue and costs of the Safety Camera Scheme and details of detection volumes both for speeding tickets and Safety Camera detections. Please see the revenue information at the end of this correspondence.

Answer 4

Revenue from speeding tickets i.e. those issued by police officers at the roadside, is recouped by Treasury via the Northern Ireland Courts. Therefore, the PSNI do not hold this information. However, the revenue generated by Safety Camera detections is reinvested in Road Safety Initiatives.

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.

**Fixed Penalty Notices and Conditional Offers of Fixed Penalty Notice
Issued for Excess Speed, 1 April 2005 – 31 March 2010**

Financial Year	Fixed penalty notices issued by police	Conditional offers of Fixed Penalty Notice issued by safety camera scheme	Total
2005/06	12335	10801	23136
2006/07	12276	10659	22935
2007/08	13544	12517	26061
2008/09	10489	13120	23609
2009/10	11500	18502	30002

Notes:

1. These figures may include notices that turn to prosecution as the motorist fails to comply with the notice or in the case of the Safety Camera Scheme, chooses to go to court.
2. These figures do not include the very high-end speeders that go straight to prosecution rather than being issued with an FPN or Conditional Offer of FPN.
3. These figures may include some notices issued that are subsequently cancelled.

**Conditional Offers of FPN Issued for Excess Speed by Northern Ireland
Safety Camera Scheme, 2005/06 to 2009/10**

Area	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Antrim DCU	0	0	0	192	105
Armagh DCU	78	257	330	0	289
Ballymena DCU	65	77	158	124	477
Ballymoney DCU	23	294	925	600	1375
Banbridge DCU	1867	1440	966	2871	2565
Carrickfergus DCU	11	32	18	13	84
Castlereagh DCU	1940	2443	2425	1726	1954
Coleraine DCU	128	75	100	233	672
Cookstown DCU	179	211	286	91	266
Craigavon DCU	43	92	19	5	151
Down DCU	219	74	148	13	13
Dungannon DCU	410	945	674	236	797
East Belfast DCU	907	512	514	484	420
Fermanagh DCU	78	10	89	90	451
Foyle DCU	483	251	325	291	1526
Larne DCU	0	38	22	57	502
Limavady DCU	147	72	825	501	540
Lisburn DCU	0	5	36	1668	681
Magherafelt DCU	330	203	413	465	1360
Moyle DCU	11	14	15	32	383
Newry & Mourne DCU	1117	1362	1528	2069	2031
Newtownabbey DCU	3	2	1	1	16
Newtownards DCU	225	122	155	86	432
North Belfast DCU	765	587	706	534	209
North Down DCU	877	1044	943	239	407
Omagh DCU	373	127	633	354	453
South Belfast DCU	280	240	162	88	210
Strabane DCU	0	0	0	0	82
West Belfast DCU	242	130	101	55	28
Missing/Unknown	0	0	0	2	23
Total	10801	10659	12517	13120	18502

FPNs Issued for Excess Speed by police officers, 2005/06 to 2009/10

Area	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Antrim DCU	1024	1476	1152	1201	1447
Armagh DCU	289	315	277	243	110
Ballymena DCU	551	478	669	608	621
Ballymoney DCU	172	169	230	112	316
Banbridge DCU	381	448	810	1293	662
Carrickfergus DCU	82	97	252	263	182
Castlereagh DCU	277	313	170	140	401
Coleraine DCU	603	698	698	425	532
Cookstown DCU	186	240	556	280	307
Craigavon DCU	716	344	473	499	459
Down DCU	711	360	304	336	199
Dungannon DCU	633	525	747	456	860
East Belfast DCU	704	850	364	114	222
Fermanagh DCU	444	524	665	328	600
Foyle DCU	592	722	679	634	581
Larne DCU	206	151	172	86	157
Limavady DCU	432	395	485	200	216
Lisburn DCU	612	622	588	674	627
Magherafelt DCU	491	448	580	299	383
Newry & Mourne DCU	660	617	916	537	536
Newtownabbey DCU	318	477	446	343	468
Newtownards DCU	323	224	161	159	166
North Belfast DCU	158	169	226	179	81
North Down DCU	265	293	358	190	200
Omagh DCU	482	567	671	263	319
South Belfast DCU	654	389	279	244	234
Strabane DCU	186	193	142	132	254
West Belfast DCU	62	61	354	169	121
Moyle DCU	121	108	118	73	185
DCU Missing/Unknown	0	3	2	9	54
Total	12335	12276	13544	10489	11500