



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-03516

Keyword: Road Policing

Subject: Road Traffic Accidents Involving HGV's Overturning

Request and Answer:

Question

All personal-injury and damage-only road traffic accidents involving HGVs overturning at both the Antiville and Millbrook roundabouts on the A8 at Larne since the roundabouts were built in 2003, to include where available:

- date and time of each incident;
- was any other vehicle(s) involved;
- all prosecutions arising from incidents including details of charges, convictions and penalties;
- copies of any investigating officers' notes relating to possible cause of the incidents (eg. speed, driving without due care, road/weather conditions, or design/construction of the roundabouts);
- copies of any correspondence between PSNI and Roads Service regarding HGVs overturning at these roundabouts.

Answer

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), 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.

Information regarding damage-only road traffic accidents is not held centrally and I contacted the District where the area requested falls. The district advised that they would need to check the central recording system and also manually check records as some dates requested are prior to the introduction of the central system. Any incidents discovered would then have to be further trawled to obtain any investigating officers notes. The estimated total time required exceeds the time limit as outlined above.

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 the nature and structure of the information unfortunately makes this impossible.

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.

The PSNI Traffic Statisticians advised that they have no record of reported injury collisions involving a HGV overturning at Antiville roundabout or Millbrook roundabout between 01/01/2003 and 31/03/2010.

Traffic Management in the relevant District also advised that there had been no correspondence between them and the Roads Service regarding overturning HGV's at the locations requested.

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.