



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2010-02034

**Keyword:** Road Policing

**Subject:** High Visibility Clothing Worn by Officers Conducting Speed Checks

### 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 questions are as follows:

#### Question 1

Do officers conducting speed checks on main roads need to wear high visibility clothing as to make their presence known to drivers?

#### Answer

The wearing of high visibility clothing by police is not a legislative requirement and failure to wear same, in no way invalidates any detection made.

The PSNI have issued operational guidance to officers regarding wearing hi-visibility clothing, primarily for their own safety, but with the added benefit that it makes a statement to the motoring public that police are in the vicinity. However, there are exceptions to every rule and where a local risk assessment has been carried out at a particular location and it is felt that hi-visibility clothing is not appropriate, officers are not obliged to wear it.

#### Question 2

If not, why do the TV Adverts which show officers conducting speed checks wear them?

#### Answer

The TV adverts are designed to reflect the general policing situation and cannot reflect all potential exceptions to the rule.

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](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.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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