



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-00805

Keyword: Road Policing

Subject: Moving and Stationary Traffic Penalty Notices Issued By The PSNI

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 are as follows.

Question 1

Please provide details of the number of moving and stationary traffic penalty notices issued by the force, which have not been enforced or have not been paid by the payment deadline and remain unpaid. Please provide the value of the fines that remain uncollected.

Answer

The table below shows details of all fixed penalties issued wef: 01/01/2007 to 31/12/2009 that has turned potential prosecution or has not been paid and the value of fines that remain 'unpaid'.

When a fixed penalty turns potential prosecution it is because the offender chooses to go to court or the fine has not been paid by the deadline given.

With regard to the potential prosecution **values in the table provided, we are unable to estimate the fines issued by the courts that remain unpaid as this information is not held by the PSNI and the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) may be best placed to provide this.

For your information, you can access their Freedom of Information request form by using the following link <http://www.ppsni.gov.uk/default.aspx?CATID=0&page=eform&eid=1> or alternatively you can contact them in writing at the address below;

Public Prosecution Service
Headquarters Sections and Belfast Region
Belfast Chambers,
93 Chichester Street,
Belfast, BT1 3JR

Question 2

This should be broken down annually into the type of traffic penalties issued, such as speeding recorded by a camera; speeding recorded by an officer; parking; and driving without due care and attention, from the past three years (from January 2007). Please indicate the proportion these represent of the total penalty notices imposed.

Question 3

Of particular interest are the number of fines levied on foreign-registered vehicles. Please provide figures for the number and value of penalties that have not been paid or have not been enforced for foreign-registered vehicles, broken down as above, and indicate the proportion that these represent of a) penalties issued and b) penalties unpaid/enforced.

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 in relation to question 2 and 3 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.

The PSNI Fixed Penalty Processing Centre have advised that to provide a response to question 2 would be a manual process to break down annually by offence, total time taking approximately 2 minutes per offence thus totalling approximately 797 hours.

To provide a response to question 3 would require every offence to be checked manually in order to determine the vehicle registration which allowing approximately 1 minute per offence would take approximately 399 hours, which combined with question 2 is well in excess of the current limit.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland have also considered whether we can be of any assistance in terms of helping you refine these questions to bring them 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.

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.

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.

	2007		2008		2009	
	POTENTIAL PROSECUTION	UNPAID	POTENTIAL PROSECUTION	UNPAID	POTENTIAL PROSECUTION	UNPAID
CONDITIONAL OFFER	2574	879	2363	952	3233	1594
**VALUE	N/K	£52,740.00	N/K	£57,120.00	N/K	£95,640.00
ENDORSABLE	2621	266	3423	268	2926	422
**VALUE	N/K	£15,960.00	N/K	£16,080.00	N/K	£25,320.00
NON-ENDORSABLE	43	876	42	481	52	516
**VALUE	N/K	£26,280.00	N/K	£14,430.00	N/K	£15,480.00
P - NO INSURANCE	14	3	81	6	180	37
**VALUE	N/K	£600.00	N/K	£1,200.00	N/K	£7,400.00
T - VEHICLE CERTIFICATE	0	1	1	23	1	42
**VALUE	N/K	£60.00	N/K	£1,380.00	N/K	£2,520.00
TOTAL NOTICES	5252	2025	5910	1730	6392	2611
**VALUE	N/K	£95,640.00	N/K	£90,210.00	N/K	£146,360.00