



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-00546

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: Inspection & Search of PSNI Vehicles

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. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full.

Question

Please provide any policy and/or procedure utilised by the PSNI in respect of the inspection, search and/or processing of PSNI vehicles.

Answer

In respect of the inspection, search and processing of police vehicles, the PSNI utilise 'Guidance on the Safer Detention & Handling of Persons in Police Custody', which was produced on behalf of the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Home Office by the National Centre for Policing Excellence and can be accessed via the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NACRO) website using the link below or by typing the web site address into a web browser:

<http://www.nacro.org.uk/data/files/nacro-2006021400-469.pdf>

The following paragraph, 5.5.2 has been extracted from the document in answer to your request.

'Vehicles used to transport detainees must be searched before and after use and where practicable, in the presence of the detainee. In unmodified vehicles, attention should be given to the area down the back of the seats and the footwells as these are the most likely places for items to be secreted. Care should be taken when searching this area to avoid sharp objects including syringes'.

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.