



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-01832

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Police Raid Requiring Forced Entry to Domestic Dwellings

Request and Answer:

Question 1

Please could you tell me (via email) for the financial years 2009-10, 2008-9, 2007-8 (and, if it will not break the time limit, 2006-7).

How many police raids requiring forced entry to domestic dwellings occurred in your force area for each year?

Question 2

How much money your force paid in compensation for damage to property during police raids on domestic dwellings?

Question 3

The total number of raids which resulted in compensation for each year?

Question 4

And if possible, the single largest payout for each year and what it was for?

Question 5

If more detailed information is collected (for example: replacing a front door, plastering a wall, etc) and it will not take longer than the maximum time allowance, could you also break down what the other payouts were for?

Question 6

Could you clarify whether your force pay compensation if the raid in question leads to a successful conviction of the dwelling occupant/s.

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.

To provide a full response to this request would require retrieving all relevant files and reading and extracting the information required.

The information in relation to question 1 is not held in a central location within the PSNI and would require input from each of the eight District Command Units. The only records held by the Districts which may show whether force was used in searches of domestic dwellings are Search Records and Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) forms. One District alone has advised that they receive over 500 Search Records and 4,800 PACE forms each year and manually searching through them to extract the information requested would take hundreds of hours.

In addition, there are approximately 300 files held which are relevant to question 5 of your request and, allowing 5 minutes to check each file, it has been estimated that it would take 25 hours to retrieve the information requested.

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.

I have also considered how your request may be refined in order that the cost of complying with it may be facilitated within the 'appropriate limit'. Unfortunately the nature and structure of the requested information makes this impossible.

Although excess cost removes the PSNI's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information relative to your request which was retrieved or available 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.

Please see tables below which provide amounts paid by PSNI in compensation for damage to property during police raids on domestic dwellings for the financial years 2006 to 2010. These tables provide responses for questions 2, 3 and 4 of your request. Information supplied is based on claims lodged by members of the public for alleged damage to their property as a result of a police search.

In relation to question 6, I can advise that members of the public are a liberty to lodge a claim for compensation following a police search if they are of the opinion that police were negligent. Any such claim is considered on its own particular merits.

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.

2006/07

DAMAGED CAUSED	HOW	AMOUNT
Alleged items stolen after police failed to secure property after search	Items stolen as property not secure	6,741.00
Alleged property damaged as police left property unsecure	Property damaged as property not secured	2,774.76
Alleged damage to door	Forced entry to property	2,120.88
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	1,540.00
Request for reimbursement to secure property	Forced entry to property	1,486.38
Alleged damage to door	Forced entry to property	1,275.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	893.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	881.20
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	846.00
Alleged damage to door	Forced entry to property	829.00
Alleged damage to property & items seized	Forced entry to property	810.00
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	800.00
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	775.00
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	765.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	750.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	717.38
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	650.00
Alleged damage to door	Forced entry to property	630.00
Alleged damage to front door & inner door	Forced entry to property	617.26
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	580.00
Alleged damage to doorway	Forced entry to property	562.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	550.00
Alleged items seized during search	Forced entry to property	500.00
Request for reimbursement to secure property	Forced entry to property	500.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	480.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	470.00
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	468.98
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	440.00
Alleged damage to window	Forced entry to property	440.00
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	430.00
Alleged damage to front door , lock & frame	Forced entry to property	399.50
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	379.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	375.00
Alleged damage to door	Forced entry to property	375.00
Alleged damage to front & rear door	Forced entry to property	370.00
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	350.00
Alleged damage to door	Forced entry to property	315.00
Alleged damage to door	Forced entry to property	272.00
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	264.39
Alleged damage to door	Forced entry to property	250.00
Alleged damage to door	Forced entry to property	236.00

Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	225.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	223.25

Alleged damage to front & internal doors	Forced entry to property	223.25
Alleged damage to door	Forced entry to property	220.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	211.50
Request for reimbursement to secure property	Forced entry to property	210.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	206.71
Alleged damage to back door	Forced entry to property	200.00
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	200.00
Alleged damage to door	Forced entry to property	200.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	193.87
Alleged damage to back door	Forced entry to property	172.75
Request for reimbursement to secure property	Forced entry to property	171.55
Request for reimbursement to secure property	Forced entry to property	150.40
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	150.00
Request for reimbursement to secure property	Forced entry to property	145.00
Alleged damage to window & door	Forced entry to property	136.60
Alleged damage to door	Forced entry to property	130.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	122.12
Alleged damage to door	Forced entry to property	116.35
Alleged damage to window	Forced entry to property	99.87
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	92.00
Alleged damage to door	Forced entry to property	58.75
Request for reimbursement to secure property	Forced entry to property	45.00
Request for reimbursement to secure property	Forced entry to property	16.69
		38,829.39

2007/08

DAMAGED CAUSED	HOW	AMOUNT
Care package required for elderly resident after wrong addresss entered by police	Wrong address entered	5,000.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	1,615.00
Alleged items damaged after being seized during search	Items damaged after being seized during a search	1,500.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	1,375.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	1,175.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	1,092.75
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	981.16
Alleged damage to patio doors	Forced entry to property	950.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	928.25
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	916.50
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	898.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	850.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	833.50
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	822.50
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	809.58
Alleged damage to drains	Drains left blocked after search of property resulting in damage	750.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	745.00
Alleged damage to back door	Forced entry to property	720.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	710.00
Care package required for elderly resident after wrong addresss entered by police	Wrong address entered	700.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	691.50
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	675.63
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	670.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	650.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	618.43

Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	572.00
Alleged damage to door	Forced entry to property	569.23
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	550.00
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	500.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	500.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	495.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	485.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	475.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	450.00
Alleged damage to door	Forced entry to property	411.25
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	398.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	387.75
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	380.70
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	380.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	355.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	350.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	340.75
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	334.50
Alleged damage to front door of block of flats	Forced entry to property	320.69
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	304.25
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	301.85
Alleged theft of furniture after search	Forced entry to property	300.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	251.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	242.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	235.99
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	210.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	200.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	190.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	160.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	150.40
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	135.00
Request for reimbursement to secure door	Forced entry to property	100.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	90.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	80.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	75.76
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	60.00
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	58.63
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	52.67
		38,130.22

2008/09

DAMAGED CAUSED	HOW	AMOUNT
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	2,180.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	2,000.00
Alleged damage to door	Forced entry to property	1,758.98
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	1,715.50
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	1,667.50
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	1,452.76
Alleged damage to door & frame	Forced entry to property	1,175.00
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	1,150.00
Alleged damage to PVC door	Forced entry to property	1,145.63
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	1,116.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	1,100.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	1,057.50
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	1,050.00
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	1,022.25
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	992.58
Alleged damage to window	Forced entry to property	990.00
Alleged damage to door	Forced entry to property	981.50
Alleged damage to front door & frame	Forced entry to property	955.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	950.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	869.50
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	858.13
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	850.00

Alleged damage to door	Forced entry to property	835.00
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	800.30
Alleged damage to garage door & stock	Forced entry to property	787.37
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	720.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	700.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	700.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	697.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	640.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	630.00
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	618.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	614.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	600.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	592.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	582.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	575.00
Alleged damage to front door and frame	Forced entry to property	525.00
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	520.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	480.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	480.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	450.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	450.00
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	440.63
Alleged damage to front door & panelling	Forced entry to property	400.00
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	400.00
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	397.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	325.00
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	302.75
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	300.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	300.00
Alleged damage to table	Forced entry to property	279.00
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	260.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	252.41
Alleged damage to door	Forced entry to property	250.00
Alleged damage to window	Forced entry to property	246.65
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	229.56
Alleged damage to door & mattress	Forced entry to property	200.00
Request for reimbursement to secure property	Forced entry to property	195.50
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	195.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	178.07
Alleged damage to locks	Forced entry to property	171.19
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	132.46
Alleged damage to back gate	Forced entry to property	130.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	110.00
Alleged damage to door	Forced entry to property	67.00
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	64.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	60.00
Alleged damage to door	Forced entry to property	50.00
Alleged damage to property	Forced entry to property	20.00
		45,989.72

2009/10

DAMAGED CAUSED	HOW	AMOUNT
Alleged damage to front door, frame and window pane	Forced entry to property	1,600.00
Alleged damage to front door and inner porch door	Forced entry to property	1,536.00
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	1,322.00
Alleged damage to front door & frame	Forced entry to property	1,321.88
Damage to property	Damage casued during house search	1,300.00
Alleged damage to rear windows & items within property	Forced entry to property	1,200.00
Alleged damage to lawn and items within proeprty - carpets and wallpaper	Forced entry to property	1,100.00
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	999.41
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	975.00
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	850.00
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	850.00
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	850.00
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	765.00
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	700.00
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	695.65
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	632.50
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	585.00
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	570.00
Alleged damage to back door	Forced entry to property	550.00
Alleged damage to front door and staining on carpet	Forced entry to property	524.00
Alleged damage to back door	Forced entry to property	485.00
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	453.10

Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	447.35
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	401.00
Alleged damage to back door	Forced entry to property	400.00
Alleged damage to front door & fire door	Forced entry to property	400.00
Alleged damage to back door	Forced entry to property	395.00
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	368.80
Alleged damage to back door	Forced entry to property	350.00
Alleged damage to back door	Forced entry to property	350.00
Alleged damage to back door	Forced entry to property	350.00
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	335.00
Alleged damage to rear gate	Forced entry to property	296.70
Alleged damage to back door	Forced entry to property	270.25
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	270.00
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	235.00
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	230.00
Alleged damage to back door	Forced entry to property	195.00
Alleged damage to side window	Forced entry to property	180.00
Alleged damage to front door	Forced entry to property	150.00
Request for reimbursement in respect of replacement window	Forced entry to property	75.00
Request for reimbursement in respect of broken bottle of perfume	Forced entry to property	50.00
		25,613.64