



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F2011 03102

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** PSNI Policy re Forensic Exhibits Retention and Destruction

### **Request and Answer:**

#### **Question**

Please supply me with all of the following information and documents under both the FOIA 2000 and also all other rights of access;

1. PSNI's policy regarding forensic exhibits retention.
2. PSNI's policy regarding the destruction of forensic exhibits.
3. PSNI's policy regarding destruction of forensic exhibits, including full details of authorisation that is required at different and or all levels to destroy such forensic exhibits, documents.
4. PSNI's policy regarding the recording of destruction of forensic exhibits, records.

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.

#### **Answer**

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested.

PSNI policy is published on the PSNI website however there is no "policy" regarding forensic exhibits. The legislative framework that all police officers acting as Investigating Officers must follow is primarily based on the Police And Criminal Evidence (NI) Order 1989. This is available to view via the website.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/1989/1341/contents>

You also asked for information under all other rights of access. Any request for personal data under the rights of access will fall under the Data Protection Act and should you require any further information the following DAT1 web link is available.

<http://www.psni.police.uk/dat.pdf>

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.