



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F 2011 02997

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Queries on £200m of Funding/Dissident Threat Etc

### Request and Answer:

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides an exemption where the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit. Section 12(4) provides that the Secretary of State may make regulations with regard to this exemption.

The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 were made in pursuance of this (and other) sub section(s) of the Act. Regulation 5 of the Regulations provides that where two or more requests for information are made by one person, (or by different persons who appear to be working in concert), and where the requests relate, to any extent, to the same or similar information, and the requests are received within 60 working days of each other, that the requests may be aggregated for the purpose of calculating costs. In other words the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests may be added together and if the total exceeds the appropriate limit, then the requests may be refused in pursuance of Section 12.

As the subject of this request is similar to your other request F2011 02996 regarding information concerning Dissidents and these requests were received by PSNI within 60 working days of each other, these requests have been aggregated for the purpose of calculating fees under the Regulations.

### Questions

In October last year it was reported that the police were seeking access to more than £200m of funding from the government over five years to combat the threat from dissident republicans.

The Chief Constable lobbied for access to more than £200m of special funding from the treasury reserve during the next five years to be used if he feels it is needed to combat the dissident threat.

- 1) How much of this funding has the PSNI received to date
- 2) How much has it spent (breakdown)
  - a) Alternatively if it has not received the funding yet how much is it due to receive?

Questions  
F2011 02996

How many people have been charged with dissident activity/offences since January 1st 2011?

Where have the PSNI noted the largest amount of dissident activity?

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.

Part of this funding has been received by PSNI however the information in relation to Questions 1, 2 and 2a is not held in an easily retrievable format and 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 or 18 hours.

Questions 1, 2 and 2a in this request would necessitate the following work:

1. A report would have to be written from the Financial System
2. The report would have to be run/downloaded and into an acceptable format for release
3. Totals would have to be reconciled to month end DOJ/Corporate reports
4. All of the above work would have to be checked before release.

Please note that there is no obligation under the Act to create information.

This is estimated to take approximately 24 hours to complete.

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.

### Section 16 Advice and Assistance

In relation to your second request (F2011 02996) the following web link may be of interest to you.

[http://www.psni.police.uk/index/updates/updates\\_statistics.htm](http://www.psni.police.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics.htm)

Within this link you will find:

Number of persons arrested under The Terrorism Act Section 41 and subsequently charged  
Casualties as a result of paramilitary-style attacks  
Security Situation Statistics by Area and Region  
Security Situation Statistics by District and Region etc.

You may wish to submit a refined request in order that the cost of complying with your request may be facilitated within the 'appropriate limit'. I have considered how your request may be refined to bring it under the appropriate limit. However due to the nature of your requests we are unable to advise you how to refine your questions.

Submission of a refined request would be treated as a new request, and considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, including consideration of relevant Part II exemptions.

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

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