



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-02801

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Laptops

Request and Answer:

Question 1

How many laptops have been reported lost or stolen in the past 5 years? (broken down year by year if possible)

Question 2

How many lost or stolen laptops have been recovered by your authority in the past 5 years? (broken down year by year if possible)

Question 3

How many lost or stolen laptops have been returned to their owner in the past 5 years? (broken down year by year if possible)

Question 4

How many laptops have been stolen in the past 5 years from the following? (broken down year by year if possible)

- a. House
- b. Public transport
- c. Offices
- d. Assault
- e. Cars/other vehicles

Answer

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), 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 (18 hours).

The information requested in question 4 is not routinely collated within the PSNI and would require the Information Computer Services Department to individually check the 6287 occurrences of stolen lap tops and extract information about the circumstances surrounding each incident. Further examination would be required to determine how many fit the categories listed. It has been estimated that this process would take 5 minutes per occurrence, equating to a total of over 523 hours retrieval time and greatly exceeding the cost threshold.

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.

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'. In compliance with Section 16 of the Act, I have considered how your request may be refined to bring it under the appropriate limit. Unfortunately the nature and structure of the information requested makes this impossible.

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.

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 below;

- 6287 laptops have been reported lost or stolen in the past 5 years.
- 54 lost or stolen laptops have been recovered by the PSNI in the past 5 years.
- 7 lost or stolen laptops have been returned to their owner in the past 5 years.

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.psnipolice.uk

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