



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2011-01569

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Loyalist and Republican Convictions

### Request and Answer:

The Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed the search for the information you have requested.

### Question

In November 2010 you informed me that my request for conviction details would be outside the 'appropriate cost limit' F-2010-03023. Would it be possible to look again at my request but limiting it to the following:

1987 - 1994  
Loyalist and Republican 'convictions' for terrorist offences.

As part of FOI 2010-01513 you provided details of persons 'charged' with terrorist offences 1987 - 1994 but I now need the information for those convicted.

You previously clarified that you require information in relation to convictions for terrorist offences attributable to Loyalist, Republican and Other for the period 1987 – 1994.

### 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 (18 hours).

For each of the 8 years, 1987 to 1994 inclusive, there are approximately 50,000 offence records with a conviction, totalling over 400,000 offences, committed by approximately 90,000 offenders.

To identify the terrorist related offences and attribute them to loyalist/republican groupings would involve the productions of scripts to query the database and reduce these volumes to a manageable level for manual checking. This would then involve a manual check of computer and possibly, paper

based records. It is estimated that the creation of the scripts would take 30-50 hours and approximately 75-150 hours for manual checks. This process would greatly exceed the 18 hour cost limit.

In compliance with Section 16 of the Act, I have considered if your request can be refined to bring it under the appropriate limit, however the nature and structure of the information makes this impossible.

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.

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

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