



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-03569

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Memorandum of Understanding - PSNI and Security Service

Request and Answer:

F-2011-03569

Question

On behalf of CAJ please consider this a formal request for the following information: Annex E of the Agreement at St. Andrews references 'new integrated working arrangements' and notes that, "PSNI officers will be co-located with Security Service personnel and will work in a variety of roles". Annex E further notes that, "Police officers working with the Security Service in whatever capacity will remain accountable to the Chief Constable..."

This is a request for documentation including MOUs which detail the practices, procedures and protocols in place with outside agencies to ensure officers remain accountable to the Chief Constable.

F-2011-03571

Question

On behalf of CAJ please consider this a formal request for the following information:

Annex E of the Agreement at St. Andrews states, "The great majority of national security agents will be run by the PSNI, under the strategic direction of the Service."

This is a request for any documents or MOUs that outline protocols between the Security Service and the PSNI and also documentation which addresses the 'strategic direction of the Service'.

Answer

As the subject of this request F-2011-03569 is similar to your other request F-2011-03571 ie request for Memorandum of Understanding that outlines protocols between the Security Service and the PSNI and these requests were received by the PSNI within 60 working days of each other, these requests have been aggregated for the purpose of a response.

Your request for information has now been considered and the decision has been taken not to supply the information you have requested.

Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states that fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

The exemption the Department considered is listed below:

Section 23 (1) Information supplied by, or relating to, bodies dealing with security matters

This information is exempt under Section 23 (1) as it relates to the Security Service, one of the bodies listed at section 23(3) of the Act.

Section 23 is an absolute exemption and does not require the public interest to be considered.

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.

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.