



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2011 03385

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Osman Warnings

### Request and Answer:

#### Question

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request details on the number of people within the police authority area who have been issued warning notices that their lives or safety is threatened by another - an "Osman warning".

Within each year from 2009 to present, I would like information on:

1. The number of people who have been issued with so-called "osman warnings"
2. Details of the reasons the osman warnings issued (e.g. the number issued due to a threat to kill, the number issued due to a threat to seriously harm to the person, etc)

#### 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 in question 2 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. A manual search of 4,937 forms (2009/2010) would have to be carried out to determine the reason for the warning (which may or may not be stated on the form). It is considered that this would take in excess of 200 hours per year and may lead to further enquiries having to be carried out. Please note that when one part of a request exceeds the cost, the whole request is considered over the cost.

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 – Duty to Provide Advice and Assistance

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. You may wish to refine your

request to the number of people per year who have been issued with so called 'Osman Warnings'.

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.