



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2011-03817

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Securing of doors 1 January 2010- 1 January 2011

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

How many doors did your force make secure (board up) between 1st January 2010 until 1st January 2011 after forcing entry for whatever reason?

#### Question 2

How much did your force pay external companies for the securing of doors between 1st January 2010 until 1st January 2011, after forcing entry for whatever reason?

#### Question 3

What responsibility does your force have in relation to the securing of properties after entry has been forced for whatever reason?

#### 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.

The information requested is not held in a central location within the PSNI but is held within the 8 District Command Units and Legal Services Department. The Districts were asked to provide time estimates as to how long it would take to retrieve this information from their separate systems. To provide a response to question 1 alone, one District advised that they would have to manually search through all records of searches conducted by warrant within their District. This District has a total of 672 records to trawl through and allowing 5 minutes to check each search record would equate to a total of 56 hours to complete. However this search of warrant searches does not include records held on Command and Control (C&C) serials. The records held on C&C would include entry forced to property to save life etc and the search on C&C would be impossible to quantify due to the amount of records that would have to be trawled through as there is not a specific category for recording this type of information. It is therefore estimated that the total time for District Command Units to extract

this information would take a total of 276 hours.

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 however the nature and structure of the information unfortunately 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, I have provided below the information which was retrieved 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.

### **Answer 3**

The Northern Ireland Policing Board will accept the financial commitment to pay contractors who are called out to secure property where:

(a) the police are unable through their own efforts to secure the property and the owner is not at home; or

(b) the owner has no means of effecting such repairs, for example, because of the time of day, lack of telephone or because they are elderly or infirm.

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.