



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2011-02691

**Keyword:** Finance

**Subject:** Costs of Policing

### Request and Answer:

#### Question

How much does it cost to police a) football matches b) gay pride events and c) other special events? I would like information for the last 3 financial years.

We would like information on both the premier league matches and international games if possible.

With regards to special events, we are referring to things like marches, festivals, carnivals etc. Unfortunately we don't know of the events in Northern Ireland that the PSNI may have been required to police in the last 3 years so we are therefore relying on your assistance and knowledge.

#### Clarification

You advised through the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) that you were content to receive information covering the last 12 months.

#### 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).

This information is not held in a central location within the PSNI and retrieval would involve each of the eight District Command Units retrieving the information for events held within their particular District. They were therefore asked to provide time estimates for retrieval.

One District alone has advised that so far this year they have created 243 new Events Files. Allowing a minimum time of 15 minutes to cost each of these events through the PSNI's duty rostering system for this District for this year alone would equate to more than 60 hours retrieval time, greatly exceeding the cost limit.

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. You may find it useful to view our disclosure logs on the PSNI's publication scheme as this would show you the type of events that we police.

[http://www.psni.police.uk/index/about-us/publications/publications-by-category/foi\\_lists\\_and\\_registers.htm](http://www.psni.police.uk/index/about-us/publications/publications-by-category/foi_lists_and_registers.htm)

In addition, you may also be interested in the following responses to previous requests concerning costs of policing of football matches and St Patrick's day parades;

[http://www.psni.police.uk/soccer\\_internationals.pdf](http://www.psni.police.uk/soccer_internationals.pdf)

[http://www.psni.police.uk/glentoran\\_linfield\\_football\\_matches.pdf](http://www.psni.police.uk/glentoran_linfield_football_matches.pdf)

[http://www.psni.police.uk/st\\_patricks\\_stoneyford.pdf](http://www.psni.police.uk/st_patricks_stoneyford.pdf)

[http://www.psni.police.uk/costs\\_holyland.pdf](http://www.psni.police.uk/costs_holyland.pdf)

To assist you further, I can advise that the PSNI are in the process of compiling a report on the costs of policing all the Twelfth of July parades and the serious disorder during or following them. This information will be presented to the Northern Ireland Policing Board at the October 2011 meeting and will then also be made publicly available through the PSNI website.

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

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

