



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-03947

Keyword: Finance

Subject: Cost For Call-out Fees For FMO's In G District

Request and Answer:

Question

I am respectfully requesting the amount of money spent by PSNI Strand Road 'G' District, on call-out fees paid to FMO's to attend to persons detained within the custody suite for the financial year 2010-2011.

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.

I contacted G District in an attempt to retrieve the information relative to your request. G District Finance office holds the overall costs for the FMO service and within the District there are a total of 6 FMO's. The FMO's for Strand Road work on a rota basis and they receive a retainer fee for being available, however these FMO's also provide a service for other areas including Limavady, Strabane, Magherafelt and on some occasions the Coleraine area. If the FMO's are required to attend Strand Road they can firstly claim travel expenses and they can also claim varying fees depending on the type of examination required as well as the duration of the examination. If there is more than one detainee in custody that requires to be examined they will apply the appropriate rates for the examination for each of the persons they see. FMO's are therefore paid on the number of detainees they see and the duration and type of examination of each person they see. Finance does not term this a call out fee. To retrieve the information requested the Finance office would have to trawl through all the FMO claims to distinguish between which claims specifically refer to Strand Road. It is therefore estimated that the total time required to locate and extract the information requested would take an estimated 80 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. I can advise you that the Finance Office within G District could possibly provide the costs of providing a FMO service for the whole of G District.

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.

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.