



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-02036

Keyword: Finance

Subject: Spending on Promotional Materials

Request and Answer:

Question

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request details of the force's spending on promotional materials.

Please give details of any merchandise, objects or services which could be considered to fall under this heading, including the number purchased, the reason for purchase, the cost and the month of purchase.

E.g. Promotional photography, safer neighbourhoods leaflet, £1,000

Or

500 mugs, promotional giveaway at crime reduction event, £1,750.

Please provide data for the years 2008-9, 2009-10 and 2010-11, and up to the present.

Answer

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), 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 you have requested is not held within a central location within the PSNI and would require each of the Districts and Departments to carry out a trawl of all invoices for the last three years paid by that particular District or Department. All invoices would have to be examined individually to determine those which could be considered promotional material which would require determination of the supplier, the goods/services purchased and the quantities thereof. One department alone has estimated that such a task would take at least 10 hours to complete. For the entire service retrieval of the information would take an estimated 113 hours and would greatly

exceed the cost threshold.

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. It may be possible to provide you with specified Districts/Departments spending on promotional materials for the period in question.

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.