



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-00673

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Beverley Shops Area

Request and Answer:

Question 1

How many recorded incidents of Anti Social behaviour has there been in the Beverley shops area in 2010 and so far in 2011.

Question 2

How many reports of Criminal Damage has been caused in the Beverley shops area in 2010 and so far in 2011.

Question 3

How many reports of Youths causing annoyance has there been in the Beverley shops area in 2010 and 2011.

Question 4

How many crimes have been reported by shop owners in Beverley shopping complex in 2010 and 2011 and what were they.

Question 5

How many people have had their names taken and what action has been taken against them.

Question 6

How many reports have been made of cars causing annoyance in the Beverley shops area in 2010 and 2011.

Question 7

What actions have the PSNI taken to stop this problem.

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 (18hrs).

The local District have advised that in respect of Question 5 above there is a vast amount of documentation that requires searching before a response could be provided. Firstly a manual trawl would be required of all search records held and as there are approximately 300 searches per month an estimate of 1 minute per form would equate to approximately 5 hours. The time taken for this would be added to time taken to check officer notebook entries which for some 114 officers at approximately 30 minutes per notebook would be 57 hours which is well in excess of the time permitted by legislation which is set at 18 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.

This information has been taken from ICIS Crime Recording systems and is subject to change. These are not official figures and should not be quoted as such.

Answer 1

In 2010 there were a total number of **13** incidents of anti social behaviour, compared to **9** up to 25 March in 2011.

Answer 2

In 2010 there were a total number of **3** incidents of criminal damage, compared to **none** up to 25 March in 2011.

Answer 3

In 2010 there were a total number of **11** incidents of youths causing annoyance, compared to **2** up to 25 March in 2011.

Answer 4

In 2010 there were a total number of **7** crimes reported by shop owners/staff – these were 1 x theft ,1 x assault on staff member whilst locking up and 5 x shoplifting; compared to **3** up to 25 March in 2011 which was a staff member reported being threatened and 2 x shoplifting.

Answer 6

In 2010 there were a total number of **10** incidents of vehicle related nuisance, compared to **8** up to 25 March in 2011.

Answer 7

This is not strictly a valid question under Section 8(1)(c) of the Act as it does not ask for recorded information however the local district have provided the following detail for your information.

Local officers both Neighbourhood Policing Teams and Response have been briefed, and will

continue to be briefed, on the problems in this area re Youths Causing Annoyance and vehicle nuisance.

Urban Region Road Policing patrols are tasked to patrol the area.

Patrols are targeted towards days, times and location of the problem as per reported calls/reports from the public and incidents found by officers on patrol.

Meetings have taken place with local residents, elected representatives and Police regarding a longer term action plan.

Shop keepers have been consulted regarding the issues around the shops themselves.

Department Regional Development (DRD) has been approached re possible night time closure of the car parking area. However it is classed as a road, not a car park, and cannot be closed without change to legislation. DRD are to consider this.

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.