



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-02477

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Cost of Policing the Twelfth Period

Request and Answer:

Question 1

Can you provide details of the cost of policing the Twelfth period including:

- (i) the time frame this covers eg: July 10-13 inclusive.
- (ii) a geographical breakdown of the costs for Ardoyne and Portadown
- (iii) the overtime costs for Ardoyne and Portadown

Question 2

Please provide details of the number of officers deployed to each area as well as the number of dogs, vehicles water cannon etc?

Question 3

Please provide the above information (Questions 1 and 2) for public disorder in Carrickfergus, Ballyclare and Newtownabbey on Saturday July 9.

Question 4

What was the policing cost for the rioting that occurred in the Short Strand/Lower Newtownards Road area of east Belfast in June?

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).

Returns would be required from most Districts, Operational Support Department (Technical Support Groups, Armed Response Vehicles, Roads Policing & Water Cannon) and Crime Operations (Air

Support). The research would require analysis of shift patterns, rosters and overtime codes on Options for those Departments who use it but it would also require significant manual analysis for those Departments who do not have Options.

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.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland have also considered whether we can be of any assistance in terms of helping you refine your request to bring it under the cost 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.

Under our Section 16 duty to provide assistance I can advise that the PSNI are undertaking a through exercise in estimating the costs of policing all parades and all 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.

You may also find the following links to previous requests helpful;

http://www.psni.police.uk/riots_east_belfast.pdf
http://www.psni.police.uk/costs_east_belfast.pdf

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.