



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2011-04107

**Keyword:** Operational Policing

**Subject:** Cost Of Protests At City Hall Belfast

### Request and Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full.

### Question

On Wednesday November 30 and Monday December 5 there was a protest at Belfast City Hall held by persons annoyed at the Lord Mayor Niall O Donnghaile's decision to not give an Army Cadet her DOE award.

I would like to know how much it cost the PSNI via the tax payer to police the protests.

I don't want to know the number of police officers on the scene but I would like to know the total amount for all officers covering the event. As I recall, on the Monday I saw four police officers guarding the back gate, two motorcyclists at the front of the city hall, three armoured vehicles behind the city hall, at least five police cyclists helping to get traffic around the protest.

And most interestingly to me as I was cycling around the periphery area of the protest I spied an alleyway containing between three and six armoured cars and probably about 20 SWAT (I'm not sure if that's what we call them over here, could you clarify for me please) uniformed police officers. For information the alleyway the armoured vehicles and police were in was on Franklin Street, Franklin Street Place.

I'd like to know the total amount spent on dealing with the protest and also what each protest cost separately.

### Answer

One of the dates of the protest was December 1, 2011 and not November 31, 2011 as stated in the request.

The total costs for policing the protest on December 1, 2011 were £12,942.00.

The total costs for policing the protest on December 5, 2011 were £5575.00.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the 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.