



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-04265

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Tennents Vital Concert, Bangor

Request and Answer:

Question 1

What did the PSNI charge (if anything) private consortiums eg promoter/organiser for the Tennents Vital gig in Bangor and the later BBC Proms concert this summer in the same town?

Question 2

What percentage of the total cost to the police were those figures? Total meaning not just the event itself but all the direct and indirect policing for the event at any stage including set-up and dismantling exterior locations, ops room etc.

Question 3

How many officers were required for the entire Tennents Vital policing operation - which includes the officers involved in traffic and crowd management attributed to the event at other locations directly and indirectly eg at train stations In Belfast and Bangor?

Question 4

Did Eminem get a 6 motorcycle official police state cavalcade? Who made that decision and why?

Question 5

Did any PSNI officers (or their family or friends) receive complimentary tickets (including VIP) for the Tennents Vital or BBC prom gigs in Bangor this year? If so, did they declare these gifts as a written record in the appropriate log book at the time?

Question 6

Did the Chief Constable make the policing provision decisions for the above events?

Question 7

When and where did the PSNI make final arrangements with the organisers of both above events to receive remuneration and was this a written contractual arrangement?

Question 8

What formula/formulae and/or case study validation did the PSNI use to calculate their charges for the event policing of both events?

Question 9

What has total event policing in N Ireland cost the PSNI in the last year, and what percentage of that charged to the appropriate event organiser?

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).

In order to respond to question 2 the total cost of the concerts would have to be calculated. This information has not been collated and would involve a manual trawl of the PSNI duty rostering system for all 181 officers involved. Some officers were on rest days and some were on normal duty with added overtime to cover the duration of the duty. There is no one system within the PSNI capturing these costings and a further trawl would be required of the transport and travel system and the business system which would incorporate subsistence, special allowances, accommodation etc. Allowing 15 minutes to search on each officer it is estimated that it would take approximately 42 hours to retrieve the information required to provide a response to question 2.

Regarding question 9 of your request, I have been advised that the total cost for the policing of all events in Northern Ireland is not collated. If the events are those included in the most recent consolidation schedule which captures all charges levied for police services in all Districts and Departments year to date up to 02/08/2011 then the following would be required; for every event we would have to estimate the total policing cost to include all Districts and Departments in order to calculate the total charge levied as a percentage of total estimated PSNI costs incurred. This would be a very resource intensive exercise involving Business Services and Ops Planning staff through the service and it would take over 18 hours to complete. The exact time would depend on which events and the specific time period.

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 a response to question 9 in relation to explicitly specified events within a particular time frame eg the current financial year up to and including November 2011 ie (1st April to 30th November 2011). Unfortunately the nature and structure of the information requested in question 2 makes it impossible to refine.

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, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information relative to your request which was retrieved or available 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. Please see below;

Question 3

154 officers each concert day were involved in the Policing Operation.

Question 4

No. Eminem did not get a 6 motorcycle official police state cavalcade but was escorted from the concert venue. This was an operational decision.

Question 5

Yes, a number of Police Officers received invitations to attend the concerts in the form of concessionary tickets. These tickets had no monetary value and were recorded as such. None were VIP. The BBC Proms ran an online ballot to receive tickets. It is not known if any police officers were successful in this public ballot.

Question 7

The contract in relation to the Tennents Vital concert was signed by the relevant parties on 12th August 2011. No contract was required for the BBC Proms concert.

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.