



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-01854

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Whitewell Defenders Parades

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

Would it be possible for you to send me copies of the 11/8 and 11/9 forms for the following parades under the freedom of information act;

Whitewell Defenders for the 18th September 2010.

Whitewell Defenders for the 19th September 2009.

Whitewell Commemoration Committee for the 23rd April 2011

Answer

Please find attached 11/9 Public Procession Report for the Whitewell Commemoration Committee Parade on Saturday 23rd April 2010. No other information is held in relation to this request as the remainder of the forms requested were not required to be completed for these particular parades.

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.

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.



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

PUBLIC PROCESSION REPORT

<p>1</p>	<p>Report on (Name, Location and Date of Parade)</p>	<p>Whitewell Commemoration Committee Parade Whitewell Road area Saturday 23 April 2011</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>DCU (List affected DCUs in order parade enters)</p>	<p>'A' District</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Notified Parade Route (Set out the notified route highlighting variations specific to the parade if applicable. A map should be attached where possible.)</p>	<p>Outward Route: 2.00pm - Finlay Park shops, Whitewell Road, Whitewell Crescent, Serpentine Road, Serpentine Gardens, Voltaire Gardens, Whitewell Road, Shore Road, Mill Road, Bawnmore Park</p> <p>No Return Route:</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Recent Parading History (A factual synopsis of sensitive parades at this venue for last 2/3 years should be given. Where there has been significant disorder or protests in a particular area this should be quoted. Human rights implications of previous police strategies should be included. Great depth of detail is not required. Reference should be made to other evidence that is available – for example, video footage.)</p>	<p><u>Whitewell and Bawnmore Easter Commemoration Parade</u></p> <p><u>22 March 2008</u> The parade numbering 150 participants and 1 band proceeded on its notified route, which included the Serpentine Gardens area. The Parades Commission issued a decision for this event due to agreement between the communities within the greater Whitewell area. The parade also adhered to a self-imposed music restriction from Hazelwood Integrated College to Shore Road / Whitewell Road. A self imposed movement of supporters was carried out by parade marshals in this area to keep nationalist followers away from any loyalist elements at Shore Road / Graymount Road. Parade organizers remained in contact with police for the duration of the event. The band, Vol Sean McIlvenna band which is named after a deceased IRA volunteer used a base Drum with Vol. Sean McIlvenna written on the skins. No protest was notified by loyalist elements in the area but a gathering of approximately 20 persons at Graymount Road / Shore Road was marshaled by PIN representatives who remained in contact with police for the duration of the event. There was no disorder associated with this event.</p> <p><u>11 April 2009</u> The parade numbering 150 participants and 1 band proceeded on its notified route, which included the Serpentine Gardens area. The Parades Commission issued a decision for this event due to agreement between the communities within the greater Whitewell area. The parade also adhered to a self-imposed music restriction from just below the Orange Hall to Shore Road / Whitewell Road. A self imposed movement of supporters was carried out by parade marshals in this area to keep nationalist followers away from any loyalist elements at Shore Road / Graymount Road. Parade organisers remained in contact with police for the duration of the event. No protest was notified by loyalist elements in the area but was watched by a number of local residents as well as members of the North and West Belfast Parades Forum. There was no disorder associated with this event.</p> <p><u>3 April 2010</u> The parade numbering 150 participants including one band paraded on its notified route, which included the Serpentine Gardens area.</p>

The Parades Commission issued a decision on the event due to the agreements between the communities in the Whitewell area. The parade adhered to a self-imposed music restriction from Hazelwood College to the M2 onslip. Parade organisers remained in contact with police for the duration of the event.

No protest was notified by loyalist elements in the area but was watched by a number of local residents as well as members of the North and West Belfast Parades Forum.

There was no disorder associated with this event.

RBP Parades

On the last Saturday in August RBP notify intention to parade the Whitewell Road from Arthur Bridge to Greencastle Orange Hall. Each year the Parades Commission have issued determinations preventing the RBP from parading the Whitewell Road between Gunnell Hill and Greencastle Orange Hall. These parades have re-routed via White City and the procession travels by bus from Thorburn Road via Serpentine Road, Antrim Road, Grays Lane to complete the remainder of their parade to Greencastle Orange Hall, via Shore Road and Whitewell Road

1 August 2008

No 1 District RBP numbering 80 participants including one band proceeded on its notified event from Cloughfern Orange Hall. The procession paraded to the Maxol service station, Shore Road. The participants boarded two buses and proceeded to Graymount Crescent where the participants removed their regalia, debussed and made their way to Whitewell Road via the pedestrian alleyway. The band reformed outside Greencastle Orange Hall with the members of No 1 District standing in the grounds of Greencastle Orange Hall and played one verse of the National Anthem before dispersing promptly.

A Protest notified by Whitewell / Greencastle Residents Committee numbering 22 persons with a Parades Commission Determination restricting it to the entrance of Catherine Court, monitored the events and also dispersed promptly. There was no disorder associated with the event. Video footage is available.

30 August 2008

No 1 District RBP procession numbering 40 participants including one band proceeded on its morning notified event from Grays Lane to Greencastle Orange Hall. The procession complied with the Determination on the restricted part of the route between Graymount Road / Shore Road and Greencastle Orange Hall / Whitewell Road. No supporters accompanied the procession on this part of the route. The passing of the District colours was a seamless event with the notification for Greencastle RBP 336. The RBP 336 procession numbering 50 participants including one band then proceeded on its morning notified event from Greencastle Orange Hall. The procession complied with the Codes of Practice and there was no disorder associated with this event. The procession was monitored by 6 persons at the entrance to Catherine Court.

On the evening return parade the participants followed their revised notified route and commenced their parade from Snakey Path / Whitewell Road. The event within the Upper Whitewell / White City area passed off without incident. There was a delay of approximately 15 minutes at Shore Crescent as the parade awaited for all members to arrive. The supporters complied with a Parades Commission Determination and made their way from Graymount Road / Shore Road to the Orange Hall via the public access alleyway at Graymount Crescent. The parade stopped momentarily at the junction of Shore Road / Whitewell Road as the last of the supporters went to the Orange Hall before completing the remainder of the parade along Whitewell Road with a music restriction. This was watched by a notified protest of approximately 40 persons at Catherine Court with stewards from BRN. As the parade passed Catherine Court an egg was thrown from behind the protest. The parade on arriving at the Orange Hall played one verse of the National Anthem before dispersing. A number of items were

thrown at the parade from the rear of Catherine Court, which was dealt with by police and BRN stewards. There was no further disorder associated with the event. Video footage is available.

29 August 2009

The procession numbering 75 participants including one band proceeded on its morning notified event from Greencastle Orange Hall. The procession complied with the Codes of Practice and there was no disorder associated with this event. The procession was monitored by 4 persons at the entrance to Catherine Court.

On the evening return parade the participants followed their revised notified route and commenced their parade from Snakey Path / Whitewell Road. The event within the Upper Whitewell / White City area passed off without incident. The parade recommenced at Shore Crescent and proceeded to the junction of Graymount Road / Shore Road accompanied by 20 supporters. The procession stopped for 1 minute 30 seconds for the band to finish a tune and then continued on the notified route on a single drumbeat from a single side drum. The supporters complied with a Parades Commission Determination and made their way from Graymount Road / Shore Road to the Orange Hall via the public access alleyway at Graymount Crescent. This was watched by a notified protest of approximately 20 persons at Catherine Court with stewards from BRN. They displayed a banner with 'Residents rights are trampled on'. The parade on arriving at the Orange Hall played one verse of the National Anthem before dispersing. There was no disorder associated with the event. Video footage is available.

28 August 2010 The procession numbering 80 participants including one band proceeded on its morning notified event from Greencastle Orange Hall. The procession complied with the Codes of Practice and there was no disorder associated with this event. The procession was monitored by 6 persons at the entrance to Catherine Court.

On the evening return parade the participants followed their revised notified route and commenced their parade from Snakey Path / Whitewell Road. The event within the Upper Whitewell / White City area passed off without incident. The parade recommenced at Shore Crescent and proceeded to the junction of Graymount Road / Shore Road. The procession continued on the notified route on a single drumbeat from a single side drum. The supporters complied with a Parades Commission Determination and made their way from Graymount Road / Shore Road to the Orange Hall via the public access alleyway at Graymount Crescent. This was watched by a notified protest of approximately 20 persons at Catherine Court with stewards from BRN. They displayed a banner with 'Residents rights are trampled on'. The parade on arriving at the Orange Hall played one verse of the National Anthem before dispersing. There was no disorder associated with the event. Video footage is available.

Orange Order LOL 658

On the 12th July each year the local Orange Lodge parades from Greencastle Orange Hall, Whitewell Road. The parade leaves the Orange Hall in the morning parading via Whitewell Road, Shore Road to Mount Street where the lodge was founded and returning via Shore Road, boarding buses at Shore Crescent. The return parade in the evening breaks off from the main twelfth parade at Donegall Street and parades along York Street, boarding a bus to travel to Grays Lane. At this point the procession reforms and parades to Whitewell Orange Hall for dispersal. No significant disorder or damage has been associated with these parades in recent years

12 July 2008

The lodge and Ballieston Flute Band proceeded on its notified route. The procession complied with the Parades Commission Determination and did not proceed past the M2 on slip on Shore Road on its outward journey. There was no notified protest and the parade passed off without incident. On the evening return parade the lodge and band complied with the Parades Commission Determination and only played a single drumbeat

from Shore Road / Whitewell Road to the Orange Hall, Whitewell Road. The parade was accompanied by approximately 40 supporters who walked to the left of the parade as it made its way towards Greencastle Orange Hall. One verse of the queen was played as directed by the determination and the parade dispersed promptly. A notified protest involving 40 participants monitored the parade from the entrance to Catherine Court. Members of the protest held a banner, which said 'Make Sectarianism History'. There was no disorder associated with this event.

13th July 2009

The lodge and Saltcoats Protestant Boys Flute Band proceeded on its notified route. The procession complied with the Parades Commission Determination and did not proceed past the M2 on slip on Shore Road on its outward journey. There was no notified protest and the parade passed off without incident. On the evening return parade the lodge and band complied with the Parades Commission Determination and only played a single drumbeat from Shore Road / Whitewell Road to the Orange Hall, Whitewell Road. The parade was accompanied by approximately 10 supporters who walked to the left of the parade as it made its way towards Greencastle Orange Hall. One verse of the queen was played as directed by the determination and the parade dispersed promptly. A notified protest involving 20 participants monitored the parade from the entrance to Catherine Court. Members of the protest held a banner which said 'End Sectarian Marches'. There was no disorder associated with this event.

12th July 2010 The lodge and Young Cowdenbeath Defenders Flute Band proceeded on its notified route. The procession complied with the Parades Commission Determination and did not proceed past the M2 on slip on Shore Road on its outward journey. There was no notified protest and the parade passed off without incident. On the evening return parade the lodge and band complied with the Parades Commission Determination and only played a single drumbeat from Shore Road / Whitewell Road to the Orange Hall, Whitewell Road. The parade was accompanied by approximately 20 supporters who remained to the left of the parade as it made its way towards Greencastle Orange Hall. One verse of the queen was played as directed by the determination and the parade dispersed promptly. A notified protest involving 25 participants monitored the parade from the entrance to Catherine Court. Members of the protest held a banner, which said 'End Sectarian Marches'. There was no disorder associated with this event.

Whitewell Defenders Flute Band –

12 July 2008

Whitewell Defenders Flute Band paraded on their notified morning outward route through the White City to Snakey Path prior to their participation in the main twelfth demonstration. On their evening return parade they followed the reverse route from Snakey Path to the White City. There was a PC decision on this event, which passed off without disorder.

9 August 2008

The parade organised by Whitewell Defenders and Galston Campsie ABOD was cancelled due to inclement weather.

20 September 2008

Whitewell Defenders flute band held their annual Parade, which involved 32 bands in the White City area. A police presence was maintained in the surrounding area for the duration of the event and community consultation was ongoing to resolve minor issues. Traffic management issues were also resolved amicably at this local level throughout the course of the parade, which commenced and terminated promptly. Video footage is available.

<p>5</p>	<p>Compliance with The Codes of Conduct</p> <p>(The Parades Commission has issued a Code of Conduct for parade and protest organisers, copies of which have been distributed within the Police Service of Northern Ireland. Clear breaches of the Code on previous occasions should be included here.)</p>	<p>Please refer to remarks at paragraph 4.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Public Disorder or Damage to Property which has occurred previously</p> <p>(This part must include details of factors that the Parades Commission must take into account when making their determination. Actions which infringed the law by those parading or protesting, must be included under the two subheadings.)</p> <p>(Parades – the extent to which participants gave rise to the disorder or damage to property and the likelihood that the behaviour of participants directly caused or led to the disorder. Numbers of participants and details of arrests/prosecutions should be quoted.</p>	<p>(1) Parades. No significant damage to property has occurred as a result of parades in this locality.</p> <p>There have been no incidents of public disorder associated with events in this area since 2005.</p>
	<p>(Protests – the extent to which the protesters gave rise to the disorder or damage to property and the likelihood that the behaviour of protesters directly caused or led to the disorder. Numbers of protesters and details of arrests/prosecutions should be quoted.)</p>	<p>(2) Protests</p> <p>No significant damage to property has occurred as a result of protests in this locality.</p> <p>There have been no incidents of public disorder associated with protests in this area since 2005.</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Community Impact Assessment</p> <p>Impacts within the community should cover the degree to which a parade or parades have already caused or might cause division between communities. Where pertinent historic reasons exist why a parade is sensitive and if relevant they should be included. Relevant tension indicators should be quoted.)</p>	<p>(1) Impacts of the procession on relationships within the community</p> <p>The Parades Commission should communicate and engage with both communities to gauge the impact of this event.</p>
	<p>(Disruption to the life of the community would include adverse effects the procession would cause to normal everyday life.)</p>	<p>(2) Disruption to the life of the community</p> <p>Widespread disruption to the general life of the community is not anticipated; however traffic may be disrupted for a short time on the Shore Road and Whitewell Road as the parade proceeds on its notified route.</p>

<p>Consider the Rights outlined below and make a judged assessment of how police strategies might affect the rights of individuals who may be affected.</p>	<p>(3) Human rights impacts of the parade or protest (and resultant police strategies)</p>
<p>Police use of Force</p> <p>Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights (incorporated into UK Law by the Human Rights Act 1998)</p> <p>Individuals' right to life</p> <p>Everyone's right to life shall be protected by law. Deprivation of life which results from the use of force which is no more than absolutely necessary for a specified purpose does not contravene this Article.</p> <p>Article 2, in general, concerns the use of lethal or potentially lethal force.</p> <p>Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights (incorporated into UK law by the Human Rights Act 1998)</p> <p>No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.</p> <p>Article 3, in general, concerns the use of non-lethal force. It also extends to police tactics in public order situations. Any use of force by the police must be no greater than is made necessary by the person's conduct. Non-lethal force used by the police must be no greater than reasonably necessary in the particular circumstances of the case.</p>	<p>The passing of this parade and the resultant police strategies are not expected to impact on anyone's right to life. Previous parades in the White City area during the last three to four years have generally passed off without significant incident. The exception being the RBP parade on the Lower Whitewell Road on 28 August 2004 and the Whitewell Defenders Tsunami appeal parade on 26 February 2005. Police will be vigilant on the upper section of the Whitewell Road, Serpentine Gardens and the junction of Whitewell Road / Shore Road as the parade passes and will endeavour to protect all individuals' right to life.</p> <p>During this parade, as in previous similar parades in this locality the distinct possibility will remain that if opposing factions come into contact in a disorderly/criminal manner then the potential for a real and serious risk to life may exist to parade participants, protesters, members of the wider community and police officers.</p> <p>The planning of the policing operation will include consideration of tactical options in response to varying levels of disorder and threats to the peace.</p> <p>The use of any tactical options will be implemented in a manner, which will be appropriate and proportionate to the prevailing circumstances.</p>
<p>Article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights (incorporated into UK law by the Human Rights Act 1998)</p> <p>Individuals' right to liberty.</p> <p>This will cover issues such as detentions and arrests.</p> <p>It also covers the wider issues of restricting individual's freedom of movement by creating sterile zones etc.</p>	<p>The passing of this parade and the resultant police strategies and tactics may impact on individuals' right to liberty. It may be necessary to restrict freedom of movement in order to prevent crime and disorder and ensure the safety of parade participants, protesters and members of the wider community. Police intentions are to ensure that any such restrictions are proportionate and kept to an absolute minimum.</p> <p>If a serious threat to public order occurs, police may have to consider implementation of a buffer area between opposing factions. This may involve the use of barriers or screening. Such tactics will be used only if necessary and proportionate to the prevailing circumstances.</p> <p>The use of any tactical options will be implemented in a manner, which will be appropriate and proportionate to the prevailing circumstances.</p>

<p>Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (incorporated into UK law by the Human Rights Act 1998)</p> <p>Individuals' rights to respect for private and family life.</p> <p>Disallows interference by a public authority of this right except as is in accordance with the law and is necessary in the interests of national security, public safety, economic well being of the country, prevention of disorder and crime, protection of health and morals or the protection of rights and freedoms of others.</p>	<p>The passing of this parade and the resultant police strategies and tactics may impact on any individuals' right to respect for private and family life if a sterile area is required. The planning of the policing operation will include consideration of tactical options in response to varying levels of disorder and threats to the peace.</p> <p>The use of any tactical options will be implemented in a manner, which will be appropriate and proportionate to the prevailing circumstances.</p> <p>Audio / video equipment may be deployed in order to collect and preserve evidence of offences under the Public Order (NI) Order 1987.</p> <p>This infringement of Article 8 is justified in order to collect and preserve evidence of any disorder or crime associated with this event.</p>
<p>Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights (incorporated into UK law by the Human Rights Act 1998)</p> <p>Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.</p> <p>Gives individuals freedom to manifest religion in worship, teaching, practice and observance. Limitations prescribed by law only by interests of public safety, public order, health or morals or for protection of rights and freedoms of others.</p>	<p>Due to the timing of the parade infringement of any person's freedom of thought, conscience and religion is not anticipated.</p> <p>As discussed above, police tactics may require a sterile area to prevent crime and disorder from occurring. If this is prolonged it may infringe upon the free movement of people including persons wishing to attend their places of worship. Police actions in this respect will be proportionate to the circumstances and any restriction will be kept to a minimum period of time.</p>
<p>Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights (incorporated into UK Law by the Human Rights Act 1998)</p> <p>Right to freedom of expression.</p> <p>Freedom to hold opinions and to receive or impart information and ideas without interference by public authorities and regardless of frontiers. The exercise of these freedoms, since they carry duty and responsibility, may be limited as prescribed by law and necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, territorial integrity, public safety, prevention of disorder and crime, protection of health or morals, protection of the reputation or rights of others, preventing disclosure of confidential information or to maintain the authority and impartiality of judiciary.</p>	<p>Police tactics will not seek to interfere with peaceful freedom of expression.</p> <p>Police will however monitor all assemblies to ensure they do not pose a threat to public safety.</p> <p>If necessary police will act to prevent disorder and crime and uphold the law. Police actions will be appropriate and proportionate with regard to the prevailing circumstances.</p> <p>Police tactics may necessitate the creation of a buffer area between any protest meetings and those persons opposed to it who may threaten public safety.</p> <p>It may then be necessary to deploy police resources to implement cordons at Whitewell Road / Gunnell Hill, Whitewell Road / Shore Road. This would be to prevent disorder or interference with the parade if permitted to pass this area. This course of action would be proportionate, legal and necessary.</p>
<p>Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights (incorporated into UK law by the Human Rights Act 1998)</p> <p>Right to freedom of assembly and association.</p> <p>Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association with others.</p> <p>Can only be restricted as prescribed by law and as are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety, prevention of disorder or crime, protection of health or morals or for the protection of the rights or freedoms of others. This shall not prevent the imposition of lawful restrictions on the exercise of these rights by members of the armed forces, the police or the administration of the State.</p>	<p>Police will not seek to interfere with peaceful assembly and association with others.</p> <p>Police will however monitor all assemblies to ensure they do not pose a threat to public safety. If necessary police will act to prevent disorder and crime and uphold the law. Police actions will be appropriate and proportionate with regard to the prevailing circumstances.</p> <p>Police tactics may necessitate the creation of a buffer area between any public procession and those persons opposed to it who may threaten public safety.</p>

	<p>Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights (incorporated into UK law by the Human Rights Act 1998)</p> <p>Prohibition of discrimination.</p> <p>All the rights and freedoms in the Convention shall be enjoyed without discrimination on any grounds such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, natural or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status.</p>	<p>The competing rights of marchers, protesters, residents and the wider community will be balanced by effective police deployment and tactics.</p> <p>Police will continue to engage in community consultation in relation to this and other similar events.</p> <p>Police tactics will respect individual human rights while maintaining public safety and dealing with any crime and disorder that may arise.</p>
	<p>(This section should contain any other relevant information, which has been obtained through community contacts etc. A professional assessment of the value of such information must be given.)</p>	<p>No notification of any counter protest / parade has been submitted to date.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Signature</p> <p>This report should be signed by the DCU Commander or if crossing police boundaries by the senior officer responsible.</p> <p>(Name, Location and Date of Parade)</p>	<p>A. Cooke T/Superintendent Operations 'A' District Whitewell Commemoration Committee - Saturday 23rd April 2011</p>