



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-00365

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Pieces Of Art In The PSNI Estate

Request and Answer:

Question

The number of paintings/prints/statues/engravings/sculptures/pieces of arts in the PSNI estate, the value of each and the artist.

How many of the above have (i) gone missing or (ii) been stolen in the past 10 years, by value, location and artist.

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.

Information with regard to your request is not held centrally within the PSNI and each of the 8 Police Districts had to be contacted in an attempt to retrieve the information requested. One district alone has 15 stations within it and they have advised that allowing 2 hours per station to check the station and list each piece (if any) as requested would take a total of 30 hours. Another district has 10 stations within it and allowing 2 hours per station again would amount to a further 20 hours. The total for these 2 districts is 50 hours which is well in excess of that 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 from Command Secretariat 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.

The Department of Finance and Personnel manages the NICS Art Collection and loans art to PSNI, at no cost, under the conditions of an art work loan agreement. This requires that PSNI will keep the artwork secure and appropriately maintained.

Please find below details of the art in question.

Artist		Current Value
David Long	Painting – Watercolour	£750
Michael Simms	Painting – Oil	£525
Rowland Hill	Painting - Oil	£2500
Michael Simms	Painting – Oil	£375
Sam McLarnon	Painting – Watercolour	£450
Alan Quigley	Painting – Oil	£400
Harry C Reid	Painting – Watercolour	£500
Gerard Maguire	Painting – Oil	£450
Manson Blair	Painting – Oil	£950
R D Beattie	Painting – Mixed	£1250
Dennis J McDowell	Painting – Oil	£550
W Boyce	Painting – Oil	£450
Manson Blair	Painting – Oil	£950
Colin Gibson	Painting – Oil	£600

I can confirm these are checked regularly and none have gone missing or been stolen.

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.

