



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2011-00856

**Keyword:** Organisational Information/Governance

**Subject:** Costs in Relation to Police Vehicles

### 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.

#### Question 1

I would like to request information under the FOI Act, I would like to direct the information towards the specific areas of D District - Antrim and Ballymena and E District relating to the Armagh area.

I would like to know:

How much money has been spent on buying in police vehicles within the past five years to which the figures are available?

#### Question 2

How many police vehicles have been damaged, or written off in the past five years to which such figures are available?

#### Question 3

How much money is spent on repairing the damage to these vehicles or on replacing these vehicles to which such figures are available?

### 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)

To provide the information requested in question 1, Transport Services advised, it would be necessary to check 973 vehicle records to determine how many were allocated to the districts specified in your request. Allowing 3 minutes to check each record, this process would take approximately 48 hours to complete and would greatly exceed the 18 hours limit.

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.

In compliance with Section 16 of the Act, Duty to Assist I have considered if the PSNI can assist you to refine your request, to bring it under the cost limit, however the nature and structure of the information, unfortunately makes this impossible.

Although excess cost removes the PSNI's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, I have provided below the information which was retrieved prior to realising 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.

### **Answer 2 & 3**

The following information has been provided in relation to D District – Antrim, E District – Armagh and H District – Ballymena.

Please see the table below detailing the number of vehicles damaged and 'written off' together with the repair costs for the past five years.

<b>District</b>	<b>Damaged</b>	<b>Written off</b>	<b>Repair Costs</b>
<b>D District - Antrim</b>	417	12	£327,497.37
<b>E District - Armagh</b>	494	13	£433,845.48
<b>H District - Ballymena</b>	132	6	£110,762.55

Transport Services has advised that they do not hold records in relation to the cost of replacing withdrawn vehicles. Accordingly, I have determined that the PSNI do not hold the information to which you seek access.

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](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.psnipolice.uk](http://www.psnipolice.uk)

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.