



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-00764

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: PSNI Budgets

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 1

How much did your force spend on press office/media services in 2010/2011.

Answer

Figures for the financial year 2010/2011 were not concluded when this request for information was processed and therefore the figure provided is up to Period 11 of 2010/2011 financial year. The total figure £1,550,552.00 includes all costs associated with the Media department, including salaries, campaigns, media monitoring, internal communications, internet and social media.

Question 2

How much does the force plan to spend on press office/media services in 2011/2012. Will there be redundancies in this department.

Please note: I made a similar request for information more than a year ago and found that forces had different definitions for these departments and thus there was some confusion regarding the figures given. I am therefore taking the precaution of attaching a table (POLICEMEDIACOSTS2).

This will allow you to look at figures given for previous years and thus hopefully avoid the risk of you giving me figures that are not like-for-like (or at least not within your own force) and thus lead to an inaccurate impression that spending has been greatly increased or decreased.

Answer

The budget details for 2011/12 have not been finalised, it is hoped that this will be completed before the end of April. Accordingly, I have determined that the PSNI do not hold the information to which you seek access. However, I can advise that there will be no redundancies in this department.

Question 3

Can you give me figures for the number of Freedom of Information requests your force has received in the last five years (e.g. 2006 – 1,000; 2007; 2,000; etc)

Answer

The following number of Freedom of Information requests have been received by PSNI:

2006- 643 requests
2007 -760 requests
2008 -792 requests
2009 -998 requests
2010 -940 requests

Question 4

Can you give me the figures for the budget of the department which handles Freedom of Information requests for the last five years. (E.g. 2005/2006 - £120,000; 2006/2007 - £140,000 etc).

Answer

Please see the table below detailing the budgets for FOI for the last 5 years (pro-rata for this year).

Year	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11 Year To Date	10/11 Pro-rata
Spend	£351,634.25	£285,175.73	£335,512.92	£376,505.37	£231,938.77	£253,024.11

Question 5

How much does your force plan to spend on the department which handles Freedom of Information requests in 2011/2012. Will there be redundancies in this department.

Answer

The budget allocation has not been finalised for 2011/2012 and therefore this information is not available, at present. Accordingly, I have determined that the PSNI do not hold the information to which you seek access. However, I can advise that there are no redundancies planned in this department.

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.psnj.police.uk

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