



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-00447

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Motivational Speakers/Celebrities

Request and Answer:

Question

Under the Freedom of Information Act, please could you tell me whether, since 1st January 2007, your force has paid for any "celebrities", such as television personalities (including local television), actors, "celebrity chefs", newsreaders, musicians, sports stars, authors etc, to carry out any work for your force. Although they may not be considered a celebrity, please could you also include any motivational speakers hired by your force during the period.

By "work", I would include the following, which is not an exhaustive list: appearances at police-backed events, agreeing to put their name/face to a campaign, handing out awards at an event, giving presentations/motivational speeches to staff.

If so, please can you specify the "celebrity" / motivational speaker, the nature of the event and the cost to the force.

If some of the costs were met through sponsorship or other public or private sources of funding, please indicate the force's contribution.

I appreciate that the definition of "celebrity" is not a precise one. If you have any doubt as to whether to consider anyone a celebrity, for the purpose of this request, then please do not hesitate to contact me for guidance.

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).

The information you have requested is not held centrally and therefore it was necessary to canvass all districts and departments within the PSNI. The retrieval process would require each business

area to conduct a manual trawl of both paper and electronic finance records to identify any relevant information. It is estimated that the retrieval process would take approximately 25 hours and therefore exceed the 18 hour cost 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.

The PSNI has also considered whether we can be of any assistance in terms of helping you to refine your request to bring it under the cost limit however the nature and structure of the information makes this impossible.

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.psnipolice.uk

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