



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-00241
Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance
Subject: Translators and Interpreters Within PSNI

Request and Answer:

I am writing to confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information.

I have today decided to disclose information in response to questions 1, 3 and 5 in full. There is no recorded information held in relation to questions 2 and 4. Questions 6 and 7 are not valid requests for information under the Act.

Question 1

What is the total cost of money spent on translators over the last 12 months, two years , and three years?

Answer

The total cost spent on Interpreters and Translators in each of the last three years is detailed below;

	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08
Translators:-	£174,377.34	£210,557.50	£186,289.19
Interpreters:-	£689,447.10	£773,771.55	£625,225.43

Question 2

Is there ever a shortage of interpreters which delays investigations?

Answer

Searches were conducted which failed to locate any recorded information in relation to this part of your request. Accordingly, I have determined that the PSNI does not hold the information to which you seek access.

Question 3

Are police officers ever trained in languages?

Answer

Portuguese, Mandarin Chinese and Polish classes were provided to Student Officers within the Student Officer Training Programme, at an introductory level. This was approximately 3 years ago and lasted for a period of 18 months.

Irish language classes were also provided but these stopped in 2008.

No language classes are currently provided by the police college. Should there be a need; officers are facilitated to attend classes through local arrangements.

Question 4

Are interpreters shared between forces, or does each force have its own?

Answer

PSNI is contracted to service providers who provide interpreters for this service. PSNI does not hold any information on how interpretation services are facilitated by other forces.

Question 5

In how many languages do you have interpreters?

Answer

PSNI does not have its own interpreters. Therefore there is no information held in relation to this part of your request.

Question 6

What challenges are usually faced?

Question 7

What impact will budget cuts have?

Answer

Questions 6 and 7 are seeking a member of the PSNI to express an opinion regarding the challenges faced by interpreters and the impact that budget cuts may have on this service. As such these are not valid requests for recorded information held by the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

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.