



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2011-03145

**Keyword:** Road Policing

**Subject:** Administration Fees for Accidents

### 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 recently read a disturbing article about police forces making millions of pounds by selling details of cars involved in accidents:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/8602186/Police-forces-selling-car-crash-details-to-breakdown-firms.html>

Please state how many times the PSNI contacted a garage about a road accident in each of the last three years (2008/09 - 2010/11)?

#### Answer

Searches were conducted by Roads Policing however these searches failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided.

The article referred to in the Telegraph was subject of an official response from the Road Policing lead in the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) see attached link:

<http://www.acpo.police.uk/ThePoliceChiefsBlog/PhilGormleyRecoveryofvehiclesthetruth28June2011.aspx>

PSNI, do not sell details of vehicles involved in collisions. It is our stance that to do so would be a clear breach of the Data Protection Act. There is no information held by PSNI in relation to any contact we have had with garages about road traffic collisions during the last 3 years.

Accordingly I have determined that the PSNI do not hold the information to which you seek access.

For your information, I can advise you that the PSNI employ a Managing Agent to organise and allocate vehicle recoveries on behalf of police. The recovery fees generated from this activity are defined in legislation, as monies owed to the Chief Constable. As a result of recoveries where police

use their statutory removal powers, we retain a nominal amount to cover our administration overheads and the balance returns to the recovery operator.

## **Question 2**

Please state how much the PSNI received annually from contacting a garage about a road accident in each of the last three years (2008/09 - 2010/11)

## **Answer**

Searches were conducted by Roads Policing however these searches failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided.

The PSNI do not hold any information about monies received as a result of contacting garages about collisions in each of the last 3 years.

Accordingly I have determined that the PSNI do not hold the information to which you seek access.

For your information, I can advise you that the PSNI retain a percentage of the statutory recovery fees generated through the police removal scheme. During the last 3 years this equates to:

Apr 08 – Mar 09 £39,666.68

Apr 09 – Mar 10 £43,000.00

Apr 10 – Mar 11 £43,000.00

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](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.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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