

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-03311

Keyword: Road Policing

Subject: Retention Of Driving Licences

Request and Answer:

Question

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I request access to and copies of all documents, including emails, meeting reports, minutes, emails and official communications relating to:

Concerns expressed between January and September 2011 over the large number of motorists who have been allowed to keep their driving licences despite having amassed 12 or more penalty points.

I would like the response to include communications within and between forces and with Government departments, and representations made by interested parties.

Answer

Searches were conducted however these searches failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

The PSNI's Road Policing Team have advised that this information is held by the Northern Ireland Court Service (Department of Justice) and Driver and Vehicle Agency (DVA). You can make a Freedom of Information request to these authorities using the links provided below;

http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/foi.htm http://www.dvlni.gov.uk/Freedom%20of%20Information/FOI form.aspx

You may also be interested in the following links:

http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/motoring/motoring-news/more-than-10000-drivers-escape-ban-despite-full-points-2345157.html

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2031253/Courts-let-10-000-motorists-12-penalty-points-escape-driving-bans.html

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-wiltshire-13277186

http://www.magistrates-

association.org.uk/dox/Press%20Statements/1315312617_drivers%20with%20more%20than%2012

<u>%20points%20on%20their%20licences,%20chc%2030%20august%202011.pdf?PHPSESSID=pt48h</u> cstagp30g220q1f95mki3

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.