



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2011-01956

**Keyword:** Road Policing

**Subject:** Tractors on the Road

### 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

Do they have to pull over to ease traffic flow? If so, details on this.

#### Answer

Road users must show due consideration for others. A driver must pull over and let them pass. A driver may be prosecuted under Article 12 A (4), Road Traffic Order (NI) 1995, depending on the circumstances.

#### Question 2

Do the tractor and trailer both have to display matching plates or indeed plates at all?

#### Answer

Mechanically propelled vehicles must be registered and the registration mark allocated visibly displayed by means of an approved registration plate when used on the public road. The registration plate of a tractor, combine or self propelled harvester must be clearly visible on both front and rear of the vehicle. Trailers being towed by Agricultural Machines within the Special Concessionary Taxation Class may use the registration plate of any other Agricultural Machine owned by the same person and registered at the same address. The registration plate must be displayed clearly on the rear of the trailer.

#### Question 3

Age of people allowed to drive them on the public road.

#### Answer

The minimum age is 16 years, on agricultural tractors less than 2.45meters wide towing a trailer less than 2.45metres wide with 2 wheels or 4 close couple. The unladen weight of the tractor is not to exceed 2550kg. There are various ages from 16 – 21 depending on the type of vehicle being used, the weight, size and age of driver etc, and would need to be established.

#### **Question 4**

Is a license, tax or MOT required?

#### **Answer**

The license required depends on the machine being driven and the age requirement determines the class of licence required. Road tax is required but it does depend on the vehicle being used. An MOT is not required but the vehicle should be road worthy.

#### **Question 5**

Also would like to know the number of tractors related offences that have been dealt with by the PSNI in the last 5 years?

#### **Answer**

Searches for information were conducted regarding question 5 which failed to locate any records or documents to the level of detail outlined in your request and based on the information that had been clarified by yourself. Accordingly, I have determined that PSNI does not hold the information to which you seek access.

#### **Question 6**

Who do I contact if say stuck behind a tractor not displaying plates or matching plates and details of what action would be taken by police ie would they follow up or simply not respond?

#### **Answer**

Contact your local police station with dates, times, registration number, and details of the incident. You will be required to make a statement of complaint and if there is evidence of an offence, the information will be recorded and sent to the PPS for a decision on whether to prosecute. Advice and warning to the individual driver may also be considered, if appropriate. All the above points would be covered in any subsequent investigation.

The Ulster Farmers Union has produced a booklet called 'A guide to the use of farm vehicles on the road' which is priced at £10.00, and may also be of assistance to you.

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.