



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2012-01088

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Operation Stafford

### Request and Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has now completed its search for the information you requested and can disclose information in response to question 1 and 2 to you in full.

#### Question 1

How much has Operation Stafford cost to date? (note: that is the investigation into Mount Vernon UVF passed on from Historical Enquiries Team to the PSNI)

#### Answer

The PSNI does not hold recorded information on the cost of Operation Stafford as the officers involved are conducting the operation as part of their normal duties.

#### Question 2

How many detectives work on Operation Stafford?

#### Answer

Currently the total number of investigative staff working on this enquiry is 29.

#### Question 3

How many police officers current and serving have been arrested and questioned by detectives investigating alleged police collusion with the UVF in Mount Vernon?

#### Question 4

What is the outcome of that – i.e. released without charge, files sent to Public Prosecution Service etc

#### Answer

The Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access in relation to questions 3 and 4 as it is the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland who investigate police officers for any misconduct. Link attached below:

[www.policeombudsman.org](http://www.policeombudsman.org)

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.