



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2012-02916

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Seizures of Counterfeit Goods

Request and Answer:

I'm emailing with an FOI request regarding the problem of counterfeit goods across Northern Ireland.

Question 1

I need a list of all seizures of counterfeit goods - within the last 10 years of available figures, most up to date –

Question 2

What the goods were ie: fake cigs/chainsaws.

Question 3

When they were seized.

Question 4

Where they were seized (town and county).

Question 5

Their value.

Question 6

Whether any particular group was involved in the crime ie: dissident republicans, the Neapolitan mafia.

Question 7

A breakdown of the total number of seizures across NI.

Question 8

The total value of the goods.

Question 9

The number of prosecutions brought relating to any form of counterfeiting broken down year by year - ie: possession of fake goods, production of goods, handling etc - within the last 10 years of available figures, most up to date.

Question 10

In addition, the number of those prosecutions that resulted in a conviction, year on year again.

Question 11

The money spent by the PSNI on active operations to target counterfeit goods production or distribution, year on year once again.

Answer

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit) to provide you the applicant with a notice which states that fact.

It is estimated that the cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the "appropriate costs limit" under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450 or 18 hours' work.

The current request is for information over a 10 year period and is also asking for associated information which is not contained in an easily retrievable format. To obtain this information would require the interrogation of a computer system, each individual incident researched and the appropriate information, for the 10 years, extracted. Please note that when one part of a request exceeds the cost and Section 12 is applied, the whole request is considered over the cost.

Section 16 Advice and Assistance

You may wish to submit a refined request in order that the cost of complying with your request may be facilitated within the 'appropriate limit'. In compliance with Section 16 of the Act I have considered how your request may be refined to bring it under the appropriate limit. Statistics could be provided where there are offenders that can be connected to a seizure and detection rates for these offences are also available.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice, and the request has therefore been closed.

Submission of a refined request would be treated as a new request, and considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, including consideration of relevant Part II exemptions.

If you have any queries regarding your request or this 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.psnj.police.uk

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