



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2012-03097

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Costs on Video Surveillance/Camera Technology

Request and Answer:

Question 1

I would like information on the total amount of money spent on video surveillance or camera technology by the constabulary including the following if possible:

Question 2

CCTV surveillance – installation / maintenance / general usage costs

Question 3

Other video recording equipment - Handicams / compact cameras, long-lens cameras, body-cameras or similar recording equipment

Question 4

Surveillance vehicles and mobile CCTV

Question 5

Any surveillance kit loaned or leased from other forces and organisations

Question 6

Please could you break the information down into the last 2 years – dated as follows:

(a) Jan 2010 Dec 2010

(b) Jan 2011 Dec 2011

Question 7

I would also like information on the total value (£) of the video surveillance equipment or camera technology currently held and owned by the constabulary.

Answer

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) 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 questions raised are multiple and the information requested is not held in a central location for easy retrieval. Every District and Department within the PSNI would have to carry out a lengthy exercise to obtain the information. Question one alone would require personnel to trawl through every invoice over the last 2 years and the department estimates the time needed in retrieving the relevant details would be well in excess of the permitted 18 hours. 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.

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.

I understand you have already refined your original request however you may wish to resubmit 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 but due to the complexity of the request and the nature and structure of the information, unfortunately, makes this impossible.

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.psnipolice.uk

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