



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2012-02700

Keyword: Finance

Subject: Consultants

Request and Answer:

I am writing to confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information.

I have today decided to:

- disclose information in response to question 1 in full;
- disclose information in response to question 2 subject to the deletion of information pursuant to the provisions of Section 38 of the Freedom of Information 2000 (the Act);

Question 1

How much money did the police force spend on external consultancy services for the financial years 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12?

Answer

Please see the table provided below;

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
	(£000)	(£000)	(£000)
revenue	1,414	-306	285
capital	2,182	365	2,602
Total Spend	3,596	59	2,887

NB spend is on a resource basis not cash.

Question 2

Please could you name the consultancy companies that were paid and give a brief description of the services provided by them?

Answer

Please see the table provided at the end of this document. The names of the consultancy companies have been redacted.

Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the

applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states that fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

The exemption, as well as the factors the Department considered when deciding where the public interest lies, are listed below:

Section 38(1)(a) and (b) – Health and Safety

Section 38 is a prejudice based and qualified exemption. This means that the PSNI must consider the potential harm in release of the requested information and carry out a public interest test.

Harm Test

Releasing the names of companies used by the PSNI would likely highlight their association with PSNI to terrorists. In Northern Ireland, even outside organisations that are associated with PSNI have come under threat of intimidation or attack. Disclosing the name of a PSNI consultancy firm would likely put the business and employees at risk of attack by those seeking to deprive PSNI of essential services or supplies as part of their campaign. Terrorism in Northern Ireland remains a severe threat and particularly to the Police Service, its officers and staff and their families. Therefore there is a very real possibility that any individual providing a service to PSNI would also be likely to come under threat.

Public Interest Test

Factors Favouring Release

Releasing the information would promote openness and transparency. There is always a strong public interest in information that relates to the use of public funds and the procurement of services and suppliers.

Factors Favouring Retention

In Northern Ireland the current threat level is set at Severe meaning that a terrorist attack is highly likely. Owen Paterson, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland provides an update on Northern Ireland Security at the following link; <http://www.theyworkforyou.com/wms/?id=2012-07-16a.109WS.1> Terrorist activity is a real and current threat and the PSNI has a duty of care to protect anyone working for the Service. The PSNI will not disclose any information which may increase the risk of harm to any individual providing a service to the PSNI. To highlight these companies could endanger the lives of individuals and their families.

Decision

Whilst accountability surrounding the use of public funds is always a strong argument in favour of releasing information, the balance will always favour retention where there is a significant risk to the safety of individuals. At this time, the Service is under severe dissident threat and to release the names of companies providing a service to the PSNI could assist terrorists in targeting these individuals. In this case, therefore, the decision must favour withholding the names of individuals and companies providing consultancy services to the PSNI. The safety of individuals is of paramount importance and the PSNI will not divulge any information which could put lives or property at risk.

A release under Freedom of Information is a release to the world in general and not just to the applicant.

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.

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.

s.F3
s.F38(i)
s.F38(1)(a)
s.F38(1)(b)

Supplier	Brief Description of work undertaken.
[Redacted]	Architectural and planning consultancy work in relation to new projects within the PSNI, for Downpatrick, Cookstown and Armagh.
	Design consultancy for Seapark Cold Store
	Technical consultancy for Property Management Retender
	Architectural and planning consultancy work in relation to new projects for Ballymoney.
	Planning permission advice at Brooklyn HQ
	Strategic consultancy in relation to PSNI efficiency plans.
	Planning permission advice at Seapark Carrickfergus
	Strategic Consultancy for Transport Management Review
	Strategic Consultancy for Transport Management Review
	Claims Mgt Assistance
	Strategic management consultancy in relation to the National Intelligence Model
	Management consultancy in relation to planning and resourcing for World Police & Fire Games
	Contest Strategy
	Strategic management consultancy in relation to Leadership & Team Effectiveness
	Strategic management consultancy in relation to risk management
	Architectural/planning/Design consultancy in relation to the new College at Desertcreat.
	To assist with European Funding Bid
To assist with ISO 9001 Accreditation	