



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2012-05182

**Keyword:** Finance

**Subject:** Costs Regarding Union Flags December 3 - 17, 2012

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

How much has it cost to police protests over the Union Flag since the dispute began on December the 3rd to date?

#### Question 2

How much has it cost to police the riots linked to the protests over the Union Flag since the dispute began on December the 3rd to date?

#### Answers 1 and 2

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.

Please note that at present the figure being provided for costs is only estimated.

For the period Monday December 3, to Monday December 17, 2012 inclusive the estimated costs are £3.8m. This cost is for policing both the protests and associated disorder. The additional costs are estimated at £2.5m, mainly police overtime & employers national insurance contributions but also inclusive of £0.1m of other costs covering operational catering, damage to fleet vehicles etc. The opportunity costs relating to duty time are estimated at £1.3m. These costs would have been incurred anyway as officers would have been performing their "normal" policing roles had they not been engaged in policing protests and associated disorder arising from the ongoing flag dispute.

PSNI costs for the whole month of December 2012 will soon be disclosed publicly so this will provide additional cost estimates out to 31st December 2012.

Please note the information requested in your questions 1 and 2 is not recorded separately so therefore an overall figure can only be provided.

#### Question 3

How much has it cost to protect Alliance party officers since the protests over the Union Flag began on December the 3rd to date?

#### Question 5

How much has it cost to protect Alliance party offices over the same date?

### **Answers 3 and 5**

Searches were conducted to provide a response to your question which failed to locate any records with the level of detail requested. The PSNI overtime recording system does not capture this level of detail and the costs have been recorded as a collective figure.

Accordingly, I have determined that the PSNI does not hold the information to which you seek access.

### **Question 4**

How much has it cost to police protests and riots over the Union Flag from the Monday December 17 to Thursday 27th December, 2012.

### **Answer 4**

At the time of your request the costs for protests and associated disorder for the period of Monday December 17 to Thursday 27th December, has not been collated and accordingly, I have determined that the PSNI does not hold the information to which you seek access.

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.