



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2012-00473

**Keyword:** Operational Policing

**Subject:** Blackberry Smartphones used by Officers

### Request and Answer:

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.

#### Question 1

I wish to request details of the Blackberry Smartphone scheme currently being used by 4,000 frontline officers.

When did the scheme begin and is it on a pilot basis?

#### Answer

The deployment of devices commenced in April 2010. The scheme is not on a pilot basis.

#### Question 2

How many of the 4,000 officers equipped with this technology are in D District and, more specifically, stationed in Antrim?

#### Answer

There are currently 412 devices deployed in D District, of which 299 are deployed in Antrim PSNI station.

#### Question 3

What model of Smartphone is being used? Eg Blackberry Curve

#### Answer

The model being used is the Blackberry Curve 8900.

#### Question 4

How much did it cost to purchase each phone and what is the monthly contract cost?

#### Answer

The projected costs over a 5 year period are £14,190,539. The following items are included within these costs:

- Hardware, including the Core IT Infrastructure for hosting the mobility solution
- BlackBerry Enterprise Server Software & Hardware
- Handsets & bundled airtime provision for 5 years usage
- Software, including:-
  - Policing Applications
  - Application Support and Maintenance for 5 years
- Licensing, including proprietary licenses for commercial off the shelf software products
- Project Staff and Resources
- Integration to existing line of business applications
- Sundries, including protective cases
- Blended Training (e.g. Computer Based Training, Proficiency testing and Class Room training)

Costs are not broken down monthly.

### **Question 5**

Are the phones modified in any way so they can only be used for police business?

### **Answer**

The phones are not modified in any way. Usage of the device is in accordance with PSNI's Mobile Data Device - Security Operating Procedures Manual (SYOPS).

### **Question 6**

Are officers forbidden from making personal use of the devices and are phone records/bills checked to ensure they are not abused?

### **Answer**

Officers are permitted to make private/personal calls and send personal text messages from issued mobiles; however payment of all such personal calls and text messages must be made as described in PSNI Service Policy.

Districts or Departments must be in a position to demonstrate that these rules are being adhered to.

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.