



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2012-00901

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Calls To PSNI About Dangerous Dogs

Request and Answer:

Question

How many calls about dangerous dogs in the city of Belfast did the PSNI receive in 2011 that had to be referred to a council dog warden?

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.

In an attempt to respond to your request I contacted Belfast Regional Control (BRC) who holds the information centrally. However, the information which is captured within the Command and Control system is complex and due to the variance as to how serials are commenced it is not possible to readily extract the information from the system. Command and Control serials can be opened / commenced by several codes followed by closing codes and although most serials do not have a dog involved, and /or referral to the Council, each serial would have to be read to ensure total accuracy. For example a serial may be opened as a Road Traffic Accident but in the serial log it may make reference to a dog. In the PSNI there are approximately 1500 - 1700 serials per day and allowing one minute to recall, open and read serials for 2011, divided by hours per day totals 380 days / 10341 hours, this would take well in excess of time permitted under legislation (18 hours).

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.

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 however 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.

For your information Belfast City Council Freedom of Information team may be able to assist you with the information requested. I have provided a link to the website which can be accessed using the following link:

<http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/freedomofinformation/index.asp?menuitem=freedomofinformation>

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, and 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, and 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

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