



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2012-00438

**Keyword:** Organisational Information/Governance

**Subject:** Clothing Equipment

### Request and Answer:

#### Question

Since January 2007, how many items of clothing or equipment have been provided to police officers in your force which have been specially adapted or specially requested? These should include any piece of equipment or clothing which has been altered to cater to the officer's needs or non-standard items provided to suit their needs, for example shoes with raised heels to gain height.

Please provide a description and cost for each item as well as the reason they were supplied.

If looking back five years means the request exceeds the FOI cost limit, please anticipate that I would ask for this time period to be reduced so the request could be answered.

Clarification received refers to non-standard sizes.

#### 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.

I contacted PSNI Procurement Branch who informed me that the information requested is not held in a central location within PSNI but is held within each of the 8 District Command Units. I then contacted each District who were asked to provide time estimates as to how long it would take to retrieve the information from their systems. To retrieve the information one District advised that there are approximately 500 officers and it would take about 5 - 10 minutes to manually retrieve this information for each individual officer as the information is not recorded on a spreadsheet. All items of clothing have different codes and if the clothing required is for made to order items then a form is submitted with the items requested. Records in this particular District are only held for 1 year and they have estimated it would take 83 hours to retrieve the information requested, which would therefore exceed the fees limit. It is therefore estimated that the total time required for all the Districts

to locate and extract the information requested would take an estimated 146 hours 30 minutes.

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.

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](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.