



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2012-01320

**Keyword:** Organisational Information/Governance

**Subject:** Gifts to Officers

### Request and Answer:

#### Question

I am writing in relation to gifts to officers. I wish to apply for a full disclosure of the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please provide details of gifts and presents offered to PSNI officers and staff of all ranks in the last two financial years (2010/11 and 2011/12 to date) including the date DCU/area, nature and estimated value of the gift. Please indicate if it was accepted by the recipient.

#### 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 (18 hours).

The information you requested is not held centrally within the PSNI and therefore it was necessary to canvass each District and Department within PSNI for estimates to retrieve the information. One department alone has estimated retrieval would take approximately 12 hours. This estimate in addition to the estimates provided by the other districts and departments would equate to approximately 42 hours, greatly exceeding the cost limit of 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. It may be possible to provide information for all districts for the two year period requested or alternatively provide information for all departments for a one year period.

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.

Please be advised that further information in relation to Gifts, Gratuities and Hospitality is published on the PSNI website and can be accessed via the link provided below:

<http://www.psni.police.uk/index/search.jsp/search.lsim?sr=0&nh=10&cs=iso-8859-1&sc=&sm=0&mt=1&ha=psni-cms&qt=+gratuities>

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.