



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2012-03268

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Maghera PSNI Station

Request and Answer:

Question 1

Was Maghera PSNI Station at any point in recent years, recommended for closure?

Question 2

Can you provide details of the present opening hours of Maghera PSNI Station?

Question 3

Can you provide a breakdown of the total annual running costs (i.e. rates, heating, electricity, cleaning, maintenance etc) and any other costing for Maghera PSNI station for the last 2 financial years?

Question 4

Can you also give the figures for how many people used Maghera PSNI stations between 10 May 2010 and 10 May 2012? I.e. how many people have used these facilities to report crime, either by telephone or in person? Also how many times has the station been used for the purposes of interviewing people, etc?

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 G District in an attempt to retrieve the information to respond to your request. To provide a response for question 4, regarding statistics for persons reporting crime via telephone, although the computer system "command & control" (CC) records the manner in which a crime is reported (eg by telephone), it does not record the location at which the call was received. Not all calls regarding the Maghera area are received directly by PSNI Maghera they may be received by Call Handling or another area within PSNI. Therefore there is no distinction made in its recording. Then to provide statistics for members of the public attending the station in person would again require a search of CC records as although the system records the information to retrieve it is very limited. The set up of

the system is such that searches would need to be made on an hourly basis and this effectively means 24 searches to cover a period of one day. Therefore to cover the requested time span would necessitate in excess of 17000 individual searches and all information retrieved would then have to be collated. To provide the statistics for persons interviewed, PSNI Maghera it is not a designated station for the purposes of the Police and Criminal Evidence (NI) Order so persons suspected of criminal offences would not normally be detained in custody there. However it is possible that suspect interviews could be conducted on persons who are not detained and such records would normally be made on Pace 10 - Voluntary attender books. These books are retained centrally upon completion which would involve locating, retrieving and collating the information and it is estimated it would take an estimated 20 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 a response to questions 1, 2 and 3.

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.

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

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