



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2012-03062

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Media Statements

Request and Answer:

Question 1

Please provide me with your 'if asked' media statements prepared for publication between July 1 and July 31 2012.

To clarify, these 'if asked' statements are ones prepared for publication but then withheld unless a member of the media asks for it.

Question 2

Please provide me with all of these statements prepared in the time specified above.

Question 3

Please provide all statements regardless of whether they were released to the media.

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.

The PSNI's Media and PR Department have examined the request and anticipate that it would exceed the 18 hours permitted under the FOI legislation. The estimation is based on the fact that their department has issued 697 responses/press releases in the month of July and taken 1526 calls from the media. To provide an estimate a member of staff trawled through two days worth of calls and responses and compiled the data requested for 2 days which took 1.5 hours. It is therefore estimated that it would take an overall 34+ hours to collate the information requested.

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

the information, subject to the relevant exemptions if the request was refined to a specific date or to request a specific subject / incident.

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.