



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2012-01494

**Keyword:** Road Policing

**Subject:** Fixed Penalties Issued to PSNI Vehicles

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

Could the PSNI detail, for each of the last 3 years

The total number of fixed penalty notices issued against vehicles belonging to the PSNI summarised by:

Type of offence e.g. speeding, crossing red lights.

#### Question 2

Role of driver e.g. police officer, civilian staff etc.

#### Question 3

Type of vehicle or fleet.

#### Question 4

The number of fixed penalty notices as per above which were cancelled because the vehicle was on emergency duty/driving under 'blue light' conditions.

#### Question 5

The number of fixed penalty notices as per above which were not cancelled because the vehicle was not on emergency duty/driving under 'blue light' conditions and the total cost of these fixed penalty notices.

#### Question 6

Repeat requests as above for vehicles which do not belong to PSNI but were being driven by police officers in the line of duty e.g. their own cars.

### 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).

In relation to questions 3 and 4 of your request, Fixed Penalty Processing Unit (FPPU) has advised that determining the type of vehicle and those rejected under blue light conditions would require a manual trawl of approximately 13,000 cancellations. Estimating 2 minutes per case this process would take approximately 433 hours, grossly exceeding the 18 hour cost limit.

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 possible.

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.

Although excess cost removes the PSNI's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, I have provided below the information which was retrieved prior to realising that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of the request.

#### **Answer 1**

FPPU can only provide information which is not broken down by offence type. The number of detections for PSNI vehicles is as follows:

In 2009 there were 112 detections

In 2010 there were 158 detections

In 2011 there were 142 detections

#### **Answer 2**

The role of the officer is not captured on our records simply that the vehicle is registered to PSNI and the reason for cancellation is recorded that the vehicle was being driven at speed or breached a red light lawfully in the line of duty. Therefore no information is held in relation to this part of your request.

#### **Answer 5**

Of the detections listed in Answer 1, the following cases were progressed:

In 2009 - 7 fixed penalties issued

In 2010 - 3 fixed penalties issued

In 2011 - 13 fixed penalties issued

#### **Answer 6**

PSNI does not record the occupation of offenders on their database. Therefore no information is held in relation to this part of your request.

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.psnj.police.uk](http://www.psnj.police.uk)

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