



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2013-05187

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Number of Road Vehicle check points

Request and Answer:

Question

The annual number of road vehicle check points mounted from 2007-2013 (figure for year so far) on a district basis

A further breakdown of area annual number of road vehicle check points from 2007-2013 (figure for year so far) in Districts A,B,D and E

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 information requested is not held in a central position within PSNI and in an attempt to respond to your request I contacted the 8 Districts. I have also been advised that the information requested is not held in the same central point within each District and the information maybe held on an officers individual notebooks, Niche (relating to any operations), Command and Control (C&C), or in Operational Planning on spreadsheets/tasking sheets. Checkpoints are usually carried out in the course of normal patrolling. One District advised that they have approximately 500 Officers and the information would be held on an Officer's personal individual notebook and each Officer would having multiple notebooks for the requested timescale. Once an Officer completes a notebook it is returned for filing before a new one is issued. To retrieve the information each officer would firstly need to request every notebook held in the District and trawl for the dates when they conducted a vehicle check point. In addition when an Officer is transferred out of a District their notebooks go with them to their new Post which could be another District or a Department, therefore any response for each District would not be a true reflection of the number of vehicle checkpoints. It is therefore estimated to retrieve the information would be over the FOI legislative total 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 and it maybe possible to provide the information relating to one District however the information would not be available from 2007.

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.