



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2013-05049

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Policing Ardoyne and Crumlin Road on 20 October 2013

Request and Answer:

Question 1

On 20th October 2013 a service/gathering was held in a public area in Ardoyne to commemorate a past member of the subscribed organisation, the IRA. On the same day a victim protest was held on the Crumlin Road. Why were police officers present at the families of victims' peaceful protest?

Answer

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full.

The Freedom of Information Act assists individuals to access **recorded information** held by public authorities. Under Section 8(1)(c) of the FOI Act, this question is not asking for **recorded information**.

For your information, Police were initially present to respond to a crowd obstructing the main Crumlin Road with a barricade and to deal with a suspect device. However, the actions of a few individuals attempting to progress up the Crumlin and Oldpark Road towards the suspect device and Ardoyne interface necessitated a Police presence, to ensure public safety and prevent any potential breach of the peace.

Question 2

Why were no officers present at the commemoration event?

Answer

The Freedom of Information Act assists individuals to access **recorded information** held by public authorities. Under Section 8(1)(c) of the FOI Act, this question is not asking for **recorded information**.

For your information, Officers were on duty in Ardoyne. However, an operational decision was taken not to deploy Officers in close proximity to the event.

Question 3

On whose instructions were officers present at the families of victims peaceful protest?

Answer

Chief Superintendent Clarke.

Question 4

On whose instructions were officers not required at the commemoration event?

Answer

Chief Superintendent Clarke.

Question 5

Was permission received to hold the commemoration event in a public place?

Answer

Permission for parades or protests related to parades is required. However, permission for commemoration events is not normally required; therefore no permission for this event was received.

Question 6

Is this evidence of political policing in Ulster?

Answer

The Freedom of Information Act assists individuals to access **recorded information** held by public authorities. Under Section 8(1)(c) of the FOI Act, this question is not asking for **recorded information** and is not considered a valid question.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the 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.