



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2013-05161

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Individuals Conveyed to A & E by Police Car

Request and Answer:

Question

I am making this request under the Freedom of Information Act. I would like to know the following information. In the last six months to this date (24/04/2013 – 24/10/2013), on how many instances have people been driven to an A&E in a police car for medical treatment?

If the above timescale of six months causes this request to cross the cost limit, please contact me so a more convenient timescale can be arranged.

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).

The information you have requested is not routinely recorded nor is it held centrally; therefore it was necessary to canvass all 8 districts within PSNI for an estimate to retrieve the information.

One district has advised the retrieval process would require a manual trawl of the Command and Control database to ascertain the circumstances of each incident. In this particular district there are approximately 150 serials per day. Estimating a minimum of two minutes to examine each serial would take 5 hours per day, equating to 150 hours per month and totalling approximately 900 hours for the 6 month period. This district's estimate in addition to the remaining 7 districts would therefore grossly exceed 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 as retrieval of information by **one district for one month would take 150 hours** and a manual trawl would be

required for retrieval of any information, it is not possible to offer any refinement to assist your request.

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.