



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2013-05769

Keyword: Road Policing

Subject: Alternative to Fixed Penalty for Careless Driving

Request and Answer:

Question

Please provide the number of drivers (if any) offered awareness courses as an alternative to a fixed penalty for careless driving between August 16 2013 to November 15 2013.

If feasible within FOI cost limits, please break down the overall figure by offence observed, for example, driving too closely behind another driver, remaining in an overtaking lane unnecessarily or using the incorrect lane at roundabouts.

Answer

Searches were conducted however these searches failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided. Road Policing Development, PSNI has advised there is no fixed penalty for Careless Driving in Northern Ireland and the Driver Alertness Course (DAC) is NOT an alternative to a Fixed Penalty, it stands on its own. I can advise you, referrals are made to Public Prosecution Service (PPS) by PSNI and a decision is made by PPS as to who would be suitable to attend the course. PSNI do not make the "offer" only the referral. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

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.psnj.police.uk

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