



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2013-05675

**Keyword:** Road Policing

**Subject:** Bus Lane Enforcement Figures 2012 / 2013

### Request and Answer:

#### Question

I was looking for information regarding figures for bus lane fines, broken down into council areas, for the period 2012/13. Specifically, the number of motorists fined and the monetary amount raised in fines.

I'm working on a feature for BBC's The One Show about bus lane fines in Glasgow, Scotland. I am looking to compare facts and figures as Glasgow is particularly high in comparison to most of Britain and I wondered if this is also the case when compare with the council areas of Northern Ireland.

#### 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 regarding fixed penalty tickets is held in a central location in PSNI, however the fixed penalty tickets issued for the breach of a bus lane is a generic ticket and there is no specific fixed penalty issued for this offence. Therefore to provide the information requires a manual check of all the fixed penalty tickets issued to establish if it has been recorded as breach of bus lane or breach of sign. This is also dependant on the issuing officer recording on the ticket it as breach of a bus lane sign, which is not compulsory. There were at least 1338 tickets issued and it would take on average 3 minutes to manually check each ticket which would equate to an estimated 67 hours, which is over the FOI legislative time for cost purposes of 18 hours.

Additionally please also note that PSNI do not receive any money from the issue of fixed penalty tickets. All fines are paid to the Courts Service at The Clerk of Petty Sessions, Fixed Penalty Office, Laganside Courts, Belfast BT1 3LL.

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 due to the nature of the request this is not 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.

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

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