



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2014-01440

Keyword: Finance

Subject: Costs to Police Parades and Protests in Northern Ireland

Request and Answer:

Question 1

What has been the total annual cost to police parades and protests in Northern Ireland from 2000 through 2013? (Please provide the information for each year)

Answer

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested and the response is as follows.

Please see the table below providing all costs in relation to policing parades, protests and related disorder.

Please note: over the last 3 years we have collated information of a consistent basis and comparison can only be made between these 3 years. Information is incomplete over the 13 year period due to the fact that IT systems have been continuously developed to provide enhanced Financial Management information in respect of policing parades, protests and related disorder.

Year	Date	Additional Costs £	Opportunity Costs £	Total Costs £
2000	No information available			
2001	No information available			
2002	1st June to 15th July	7,241,644	10,288,076	17,529,720
2003	No information available			
2004	No information available			
2005	1st April - 30th Sept	5,755,810	3,486,770	9,242,580
2006	1st April - 30th Sept	1,991,240	2,262,650	4,253,890
2007	1st April - 30th Sept	No breakdown available		5,529,000
2008	1st April - 30th Sept	No breakdown available		4,435,617
2009	No information available			
2010	1st April -31st July	No breakdown available		3,679,000
2011	1st April - 31st Aug	3,578,000	2,108,000	5,686,000
2012	1st April - 30th Sept	3,515,219	2,528,648	6,043,867
2013	1st April - 31st Aug	18,481,660	4,321,351	22,803,010

Definitions

(1) The additional costs are real cash costs that would not have been incurred but for the PSNI having to stand up significant levels of public order and other resources.

(2) The opportunity costs represent the salary-related costs of those officers who have been diverted away from core policing activity.

Assumptions

(1) Typically it is considered that the main part of the marching season are the first five months of each Financial Year, namely 1st April to 31st August. There are however some exceptions to this rule which are highlighted in the 'Date' column above. The costs of policing parades, protests and related disorder between October and March are excluded from the figures as the widest definition of the traditional marching season boundary is considered to be the six month period from 01/04 to 30/09 annually.

(2) In 2012, the period has been extended beyond that at (1) to include costings for the Ulster Covenant Parade.

(3) In 2013 the costs for the ongoing protest at Twaddell Avenue / Woodvale are not included beyond the time stipulated at (1).

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.psnipolice.uk

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