



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2014-05218

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: Water Craft In Operation In PSNI

Request and Answer:

Question 1

Please could you provide me with a list of all water craft currently in operation and used by any division of the Police Service Northern Island? For each vessel please could you include the name, size, make, model, build date and the builder/shipyard?

Question 2

Also could you please give information regarding the maintenance support of the vessels:

- Annual cost of the maintenance?
- What is the maintenance schedule for the vessels?
- Who manages and carries out this work?

Answer

I am writing to confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information.

I have today decided to:

- disclose information in response to questions 1, 2a and 2b in full; and
- fully exempt information in response to question 2c pursuant to the provisions of Section 38 of the Act.

Question 1

Please could you provide me with a list of all water craft currently in operation and used by any division of the Police Service Northern Island? For each vessel please could you include the name, size, make, model, build date and the builder/shipyard?

Answer

The PSNI have the following boats in operational use. The PSNI do not hold any information on the build date or the builder shipyard.

2 x Zodiac 3 Mitre Inflatable Boats
7 x Stormforce 6.5M Rib Boats
1 x Zodiac Mk2 Rib Boat

1 x Stormforce 8.5 Rib Boat

Question 2

Also could you please give information regarding the maintenance support of the vessels:

- a) Annual cost of the maintenance?
- b) What is the maintenance schedule for the vessels?

Answer

- a) £13,511,00 was the total maintenance costs for all boats in the financial year 2013/14. Please note that this does not include any repair costs.
- b) The maintenance schedule is every 26 weeks although repairs are carried out as and when required

Question 2 (c)

- c) Who manages and carries out this work?

Answer

Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states that fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

The exemption, as well as the factors the Department considered when deciding where the public interest lies, are listed below:

Section 38 (1)(a)(b) – Health And Safety

Section 38 is a qualified and class-based exemption which means that the legislators have determined that it is necessary to show the Harm in release and to conduct a public interest test.

Harm Test

The current level of threat from terrorism in Northern Ireland is assessed as 'Severe'. Releasing details of a contractor with the PSNI would be a direct risk to the company and individuals employed by that company. Their personal safety and or property would be put at risk of terrorist attack.

Public Interest Test S38

Factors Favouring Release

There is a public interest in providing information which could assist in an improved and factual public debate and assist the understanding of how PSNI spend funds for services provided by private companies.

Factors Against Release

The current threat from terrorism in Northern Ireland is assessed as Severe and the PSNI has a duty of care to protect anyone providing work for the Service or those who would seek to provide a service when they submit a tender for a contract.

Disclosing the names of these companies and the names of any individuals who may work for them may increase the risk of attack from terrorist groups against the company or individuals who work for it as well as their families. As well as increasing the possibility of physical harm it may also adversely affect the mental health of workers and their families.

Decision

In the current climate, no information which may aid a terrorist should be provided. The general

public and especially any company providing services for the PSNI entrust that appropriate decisions are taken with regard to their protection. The only way of reducing the risk is to be cautious and exempt information using the appropriate parts of the FOI Act. In this case I believe the harm caused by disclosure outweighs the likely benefit to the wider public and therefore at this time the name of company providing a service for PSNI should be withheld.

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.