



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2014-05656

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Bomb Alerts Strabane Area

Request and Answer:

Question 1

In March there was a significant bomb alert at Strabane Golf Club. How many police officers attended this alert and for how long? Was a helicopter involved in the operation? Were ATO tasked?

Answer

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full.

Date of incident – 30th March 2014.

Incident lasted, over two separate periods, for a total of 8 hours and 24 minutes. Whilst this operation was ongoing, 33 officers were deployed. Not all of these officers were in attendance for the entire operation. A helicopter was utilised and ATO was tasked.

Question 2

In April 2014 there was a bomb alert at Townsend Street in Strabane. How many police officers attended this alert and for how long? Was a helicopter involved in the operation? Were ATO tasked?

Answer

Date of incident – 1st April 2014.

Incident lasted for a total of 4 hours and 14 minutes. Whilst this operation was ongoing, 18 officers were deployed. A helicopter was not utilised however ATO was tasked.

Question 3

In July there was a bomb alert in the Ballycolman Estate. How many police officers attended this alert and for how long? Was a helicopter involved in the operation? Were ATO tasked?

Answer

Date of incident – 7th July 2014.

Incident lasted for a total of 6 hours and 27 minutes. Whilst this operation was ongoing, 14 officers were deployed. A helicopter was utilised and ATO was tasked.

Question 4

Last month, October, there were two bomb alerts in the Ballycolman Estate. How many police officers attended these alerts and for how long? Was a helicopter involved in the operation? Were ATO tasked?

Answer

Date of incident – 23rd October 2014.

Incident lasted for a total of 5 hours and 53 minutes. Whilst this operation was ongoing, 22 officers were deployed. A helicopter was utilised and ATO was tasked.

Date of incident – 24th October 2014.

Incident lasted for a total of 5 hours and 34 minutes. Whilst this operation was ongoing, 19 officers were deployed. A helicopter was not utilised however ATO was tasked.

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.