



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2014-03508

**Keyword:** Operational Policing

**Subject:** Special Police Services

### Request and Answer:

We note that pursuant to section 11 of the Police Act (NI) 2000 the Policing Board have the power to determine charges which must be paid to the Board by those who require special police services: "The Chief Constable may, at the request of any person, provide special police services subject to the payment to the Board of such charges, or charges on such scales, as may be determined by the Board."

We would additionally ask you to indicate the circumstances in which PSNI services have been made subject to such charges. In particular we would ask you to set out:

### Question 1

The number of times special police services have been provided subject to payment under this section.

### Question 2

The nature of events in relation to which this power has been exercised.

### Question 3

The manner in which charges are determined under this section.

### Further Clarification from requestor:

1. In respect of this issue we are seeking information from the PSNI as to when and where they have deployed special police services and in which circumstances those special police services have been subject to payment under Section 11 of the Police Act (NI) 2000. To assist you in what we hope can be more efficient exercise we seek this information from the period of July 2012 until the present time.

We would also ask the PSNI confirm how those special police services are defined and we would ask you to provide us with any and all internal documentation, guidance and memoranda that deal with the issue of special police services, in particular emphasis on what entails with a definition of same.

2. We ask the PSNI to provide us with a list of all events, again from July 2012 to which Section 11 of the Police Act (NI) 2000 has been used. We therefore ask the PSNI to provide us with a list of any and all events in which the power has been used and in which special police services have been deployed. For the avoidance of doubt we ask the PSNI to include all public processions, all sporting

events and all entertainment events at which such special police services would have been deployed.

3. We ask the PSNI to provide us with the details of the procedures by which such charges for special police services are determined under Section 11 of the Police Act (NI) 2000. This information should include the details in respect of each event that has been referred to above which includes public processions, sporting events or entertainment events for which special police services were deployed and in circumstances where charges for same were determined under the relevant section. Again, for your assistance we seek this information in connection with all of the events referred to above since July 2012.

**Clarification sought:** To provide the requested information for all PSNI policing districts and for the time frame requested would be over cost as it would take at least 2.5 hours for each district plus time from any Departments that may hold relevant information. It may be possible to provide information for 1 financial year or for some Districts only. Please advise how you wish to proceed.

**Clarification Received:** We can at this time limit our request to Special Police Services that have been deployed as a result of any and all public processions in North Belfast, namely Police District A from July 2012.

### **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.

The PSNI has not provided Special Police Services, which have been subject to charges, for any public procession in North Belfast since July 2012.

Guidance on charging for specialist police services is produced and published by ACPO and I have placed a link below to their document.

<http://www.acpo.police.uk/documents/finance/2013/201307-frba-acpo-apcc-guid-charging-police-services.pdf>

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](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.