



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2015-00325

Keyword: Finance

Subject: PSNI Policing Private Events

Request and Answer:

Question 1

How many private events have the PSNI provided policing to in the last 5 years (2010,11,12,13,14)? For example, concerts, boxing matches, football matches, commercial events.

Question 2

Please provide details for each event PSNI policed.

Question 3

What was the cost to the PSNI of each event?

Question 4

Please provide the amount charged to the organiser for each event.

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 or 18 hours.

PSNI currently has 7 policing Districts. One District alone estimates that in the last 5 years they have been involved in approximately 500 of these types of events. Allowing a conservative 10 minutes to retrieve the information requested for each event would take in excess of 80 hours. The same information would then be required from the remaining 6 Districts hugely exceeding the 18 hours permitted under the Act.

Finance Branch was also approached in a bid to answer this request and they have also advised that as policing assistance is provided at a wide range of private events the full list of events where police were present could not be gathered in the time permitted.

PSNI may only make charges for policing within events and when a request for policing services has been made. If police are present outside a concert for example to deal with traffic calming this would

not be chargeable.

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 and information relating to what private events PSNI were requested to provide special police services in the past 5 years may be available within the time permitted. It should be noted this would only include what would be chargeable.

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.

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.