



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2014-05954

Keyword: Finance

Subject: Statement Of Expenditure

Request and Answer:

Question 1

Your 'statement of expenditure' relating to incentive payments made under the Asset Recovery Incentivisation Scheme submitted to the Home Office for the financial year 2013/14. These were sent to Walter da Costa by police forces and bodies in the summer of 2014.

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 question 1 subject to the deletion of information pursuant to the provisions of Sections 31 and 40 of the Freedom of Information 2000 (the Act).

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

Section 31 (1)(a)(b) – Law Enforcement

Section 40(2)(a)(b) by virtue of Section 40(3)(a)(i) – Personal Information

Section 40, Personal Information, is an absolute exemption which means there is no requirement on the Public Authority to consider whether there is a public interest in disclosure. This is so because personal data is governed by other law (The Data Protection Act 1998). A disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is a release of information to the world in general and not just to the individual applicant.

The information redacted by PSNI relates to third parties who we consider could be identified from that information. The information within the documents constitutes the 'personal data' of those individuals. We have therefore considered whether the disclosure of this personal data is subject to the exemption at section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (by virtue of s40 (3)(a)(i)). If the disclosure of the personal data would contravene any of the eight data protection principles contained within the Data Protection Act 1998, the exemption at section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 will apply. Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 by virtue of section 40(3)(a)(i) states:-

“(2) Any information to which a request for information relates is also exempt information if

- a) it constitutes personal data which do not fall within subsection (1), and
- b) either the first or the second condition below is satisfied.

(3) The first condition is –

a) in a case where the information falls within any of paragraphs (a) to (d) of the definition of “data” in section 1(1) of the Data Protection Act 1998, that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act would contravene – i. any of the data protection principles ...”

The eight principles within the Data Protection Act, are principles of good information handling standards which PSNI must comply with in relation to how it handles personal information, including deciding whether to disclose it or not. In particular, the first principle requires personal data to be processed 'fairly and lawfully'. In considering whether it is 'fair' to individuals and companies to release this information about them, PSNI considered the likely expectations of those individuals and the nature of the information involved. It is unlikely that it would be within the expectations of these individuals that their identification information would be put into the public domain. Therefore disclosure would be in contravention of the first Data Protection Principle as it would be 'unfair' to those individuals to release it and PSNI has removed that information.

Section 31 is a qualified and class-based exemption which means that the legislators have determined that harm in release must be evidenced and also that a public interest test should be conducted.

Harm Test

The information refers to police direct dial telephone numbers, e-mail addresses and operational names and the release of this information is a sensitive area. Releasing these details would allow criminals, and anyone intent on hampering police law enforcement duties, to bombard the system with e-mails and phone calls therefore both directly and indirectly impacting on the prevention and detection of crime. Releasing of operational names would adversely impact on investigations and give important information to criminals.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring release - S31

Release of this information could give the public better access to Police Departments.

Factors favouring retention - S31

Disclosures of details about e-mail addresses and phone numbers could compromise the PSNI's law enforcement abilities by bombarding the addresses with e-mails and keeping the telephone lines engaged. This would mean that police officers and staff would be engaged in answering calls which could be better answered by others and release of an e-mail address could increase the risk of cyber attack which would hinder legitimate e-mails from getting through. This could potentially lead to more crime being committed and individuals being placed at risk by important calls and information not getting through.

Release of operational names could, when combined with other information which may be available

on the internet or become available, provide those involved in criminal activity with important information which may enable them to avoid detection or result in a loss of evidence.

Decision

While there is a strong public interest in releasing the information requested the PSNI must ensure that law enforcement is not adversely affected by the release of direct dial numbers, e-mail addresses and operational names.

There may be a public interest in having access to police departments and in ensuring that the Service is actively engaging with its Law Enforcement responsibilities the PSNI has a duty of care to the community it serves. The PSNI will not release details that may hinder the detection or prevention of crime through the release of information which may be of assistance to criminals and direct dial lines and e-mails being inappropriately used or maliciously attacked.

For the above reasons I believe that the exemptions quoted are engaged and the information should be redacted.

In addition the PSNI can neither confirm nor deny that it holds any other information with regard to an exempt body as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply by virtue of the following exemption:

Section 23(5) Information Supplied by, or concerning, certain Security Bodies

Section 23 and is a class based absolute exemption and there is no requirement to consider the public interest in this case.

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.



Organised Crime - Pursue Unit, Strategic Centre for Organised Crime Directorate,
6th Floor, Peel Building, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF
Tel. 020 7035 1556

ASSET RECOVERY INCENTIVISATION SCHEME	YEAR: 2013-14
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Statement of Expenditure relating to incentive payments made under the Asset Recovery Incentivisation Scheme for Quarters 1 to 4 of 2013-14

This form should be completed and a signed hard copy sent to: Walter Da Costa, Organised Crime - Pursue Unit, 6th Floor, Peel Building, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF, by **31 August 2014**.
NB: Email copies of returns are acceptable provided the form is signed and the following text is added in the body of the email "We certify that this is a true and fair copy of the original".

DETAILS OF YOUR DEPARTMENT/FORCE/LOCAL AUTHORITY/AGENCY:

Agency/Force name: Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) Address : 29 Knocknagoney Road Belfast BT4 2PP	Telephone number: <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 15px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> Contact name/Email: <div style="background-color: black; width: 150px; height: 30px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div>
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s.F31
s.F31(1)
s.F31(1)(a)
s.F31(1)(b)
s.F40
s.F40(2)
s.F40(2)(a)
s.F40(2)(b)
s.F40(3)(ai)

PART ONE (PAYMENTS AND EXPENDITURE)

A. Total incentive payments for the year 2013-14 (Total of Q1-Q4) NB. Do not include Q4 payments of 12/13 received in June 2013. Include payments received in September 2013, December 2013, March 2014 and June 2014.	£547,228.66
B. Total amount of 13/14 incentive payments spent to date on all projects	£547,228.66 (plus £120,604.27 carried from previous year – fully spent)
C. Balance remaining and yet to be spent (must equal A - B)	£0.00

PART TWO (DETAILS OF SPEND BY PROJECT/INITIATIVE ACCOUNTED FOR IN PART ONE (B))

Please provide below brief details of projects etc funded by incentivisation monies in 2013-14 (Please include both completed and on-going projects etc).

Number the projects and continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

Highlight any contribution to improving asset recovery performance or tackling crime.

Where possible, please categorise the spend under the following headings:

1. ASSET RECOVERY (e.g. costs of running an Economic Crime Unit, employing financial investigators etc)

a) Description of project/initiative/activity

1) Employment of 12 full-time financial investigators within Serious and Organised Crime.

b) Amount allocated to each project

1) £492,000.00

c) Objectives

1) To restrain and stop the dissipation of criminal assets. To support criminal investigations by use of financial investigation tools to an evidential standard.

d) Outcomes

1) To secure convictions and deny criminals of their proceeds of crime by confiscating their known assets.

2. CRIME REDUCTION (e.g. covert operations, targeting rogue traders etc)

1) Financial allocation to local district police and departments based on their POCA successes.

a) Description of project/initiative/activity

1) To assist local district police and departments in procuring equipment and services. Two National Crimestopper Programmes – drugs awareness. Including below sample projects at district Policing level.

(a) Hand held video camera.

(b) AUSM Course.

(c) TB hard drives.

(d) Alarms-CPO Initiative.

(e) Initiative to reduce occurrence and impact of Anti Social Behaviour on elderly and vulnerable.

(f) Two week advertising campaign via Crimestoppers.

(g) Farm Watch Project.

s.F31

(h)

s.F31(1)

(i)

s.F31(1)(a)

(j) CCTV for Garvagh/Kilrea/Bushmills/Ballymoney

s.F31(1)(b)

b) Amount allocated to each project

1) £175,832.93

(a) £2,650.00

(b) £299.00

(c) £325.00

(d) £1,500.00 (with further £5,000 from Northern Ireland Housing Executive)

(e) £5,700.00

(f) £2,000.00 (with further £3,000 from partner agency)

(g) £10,858.00

(h) £4,500.00

(i) £2,000.00

(j) £21,169.00

c) Objectives

- 1) To encourage more people to report drug-related activity in their area and to remove drugs off streets.
 - (a) Policing sensitive parades.
 - (b) Enhancing CID Management.
 - (c) Equipping A and B District E-Crime Support Unit
 - (d) To reduce crime and the fear of crime.
 - (e) Crime prevention.
 - (f) Crime prevention.
 - (g) Minimising rural crime.
 - (h) Pro-Active policing against Class A drugs.
 - (i) Prevention of organized crime.
 - (j) Monitoring town/village areas at key times.

d) Outcomes

- 1) More people reported drug dealing in their community and the campaign removed drugs off streets.
 - (a) Due to frequency of sensitive parades in A dist the EGT capability has been increased as often as 2 parades at same time.
 - (b) Provision of knowledge sharing to district personnel at management level and below reference appropriate use of Social Media and policy design.
 - (c) Provides DESU for Belfast with storage capacity for all CCTV media. Public Order incidents across Belfast reducing need for DVD'S.
 - (d) Positive engagement with community, reduction in the fear of crime through education and security products. Safer homes scheme continues to be a success by providing advice, education and security measures for the public. Over 226 home visited so far this year. Additional items provided at crime prevention roadshows across the District.
 - (e) Reduction in the fear of crime.
 - (f) Reduced the fear of crime and the number of repeat victims. Improvement in awareness of home and personal safety.
 - (g) Database retained, implementation managed and sustainable programme ongoing.
 - (h) 15 people convicted of drug offences.
 - (i) Disruption of organized crime.
 - (j) Increased ability to reduce and detect crime remotely.

3. COMMUNITY PROJECTS (e.g. Youth Clubs, Anti-burglary packs etc)

s.F40

a) Description of project/ initiative/activity

s.F40(2)

1) [REDACTED]

2) Redburn Youth Group.

s.F40(2)(a)

3) Choices Project.

s.F40(2)(b)

b) Amount allocated to each project

s.F40(3)(a)

1) £13,333.00

s.F40(3)(ai)

2) £1,510.84

3) £792.77

c) Objectives

- 1) Support to victims of domestic abuse.
- 2) Reduction in youth criminality.
- 3) To afford youth the opportunity of 'hands on' experience of a police officer and build relationships while building the youth self-esteem and confidence.

d) Outcomes

- 1) Project will run From 01/08/14 - 31/07/15. Monthly return on number of victims will be captured.
- 2) Crime reduction.
- 3) Exhibited commitment by police to tackle anti-social behaviour and increased confidence of police within the community.

4. MISCELLANEOUS/OTHER

- a) **Description of project/initiative/activity**
- b) **Amount allocated to each project**
- c) **Objectives**
- d) **Outcomes**

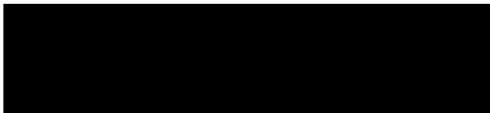
PART THREE (DETAILS OF FUTURE SPEND)

Please provide details of projects/initiatives to be funded with incentive monies identified in Part One (C):

PART FOUR (CERTIFICATION)

I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the information given on this form is correct.

AUTHORISED SIGNATURE :



NAME:



s.F40

DATE: 21st August 2014

s.F40(2)

s.F40(2)(a)

s.F40(2)(b)

s.F40(3)(ai)

POSITION: Civilian Financial Investigator

NB: You may email a signed scanned copy of this form to the Home Office and you must declare in the body of the email the following: "We certify that this is a true and fair copy of the original".