



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2015-02908

**Keyword:** Operational Policing

**Subject:** Attending Crimes Using Public Transport

### Request and Answer:

#### Question

The number of occasions in the 12 months from September 1st 2014 to August 31st 2015 in which police officers have attended reported crimes by travelling on public transport.

For each instance please provide: the suspected crime reported and the mode of transport used (ie. bus, tram, train), and, where appropriate, a short description of the reason why public transport was used

#### 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.

The method of transport used by PSNI officers to attend reported incidents is not centrally recorded by the PSNI. In order to retrieve the requested information it would be necessary to manually inspect each incident reported to the PSNI which was attended by an officer to determine the method of transport used. An initial search shows that there were in excess of 99,000 incidents reported to the PSNI in the requested time period and to manually inspect all of these would take approximately 16,500 hours, which greatly exceeds the legislative cost limit of 18 hours.

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. Unfortunately, due to the large number of records required to be manually examined, no refinement would be possible in this case as even limiting the time period to a single month would not bring the request under the cost limit.

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](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.