



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2014-05690

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Casement Park

Request and Answer:

I would request that under the Freedom of Information Act, the PSNI would supply:

Question 1

Any unpublished written communication it has had with - or conveyed to - any other organisation with regard to the entrance and exit of patrons safely from the proposed new stadium at the Casement Park site in Andersonstown, Belfast, as envisaged in the current design. To expedite the request I am content for the PSNI to supply only material which has been sent since November 1st, 2014.

Question 2

Any unpublished internal memos, briefings or drafts relating to the above documentation.

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 2 to in full; and
- disclose information in response to question 1 subject to the deletion of information pursuant to the provisions of Section 40 of the Freedom of Information 2000 (the Act);

Question 1

Any unpublished written communication it has had with - or conveyed to - any other organisation with regard to the entrance and exit of patrons safely from the proposed new stadium at the Casement Park site in Andersonstown, Belfast, as envisaged in the current design. To expedite the request I am content for the PSNI to supply only material which has been sent since November 1st, 2014.

Answer

Please see the documents below on pages numbered 1-7

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, as well as the factors the Department considered are listed below:

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.

Question 2

Any unpublished internal memos, briefings or drafts relating to the above documentation.

Answer

Searches were conducted but failed to retrieve any information relevant to your request.

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.

[Redacted]

s.F40
s.F40(2)
s.F40(2)(a)
s.F40(2)(b)
s.F40(3)(a)
s.F40(3)(ai)

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 18 November 2014 16:23
To: [Redacted]
Subject: 1.NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED-All Networks: RE: STG 13 11 14 amended

[Redacted]

Fine with me.

Thanks

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted] s.F40
Sent: 18 November 2014 16:19 s.F40(2)
To: [Redacted] s.F40(2)(a)
Subject: STG 13 11 14 amended s.F40(2)(b)
s.F40(3)(a)
s.F40(3)(ai)

Dear All

Thank you for responding so promptly and for your proposed amendments. The amendments appear to be of a minor nature.

I have attached a revised document including amended comments in red. I would be grateful if you could read the advised comments and advise accordingly ASAP but before the 21st November 2014.

If all are in agreement, I will forward the Meeting Notes to DCAL along with a covering letter.

Regards

[Redacted]

s.F40
s.F40(2)
s.F40(2)(a)
s.F40(2)(b)
s.F40(3)(a)
s.F40(3)(ai)

Meeting Record of the Safety Technical Group (STG) for the Re Development of Casement Park held on 13.11.14 at the House of Sport

Present:

[REDACTED] - Sport NI

s.F40

[REDACTED] - Sport NI

s.F40(2)

[REDACTED] - Sport NI

s.F40(2)(a)

s.F40(2)(b)

[REDACTED] - PSNI

s.F40(3)(a)

s.F40(3)(ai)

[REDACTED] - NIFRS

[REDACTED] - NIAS

[REDACTED] - BCC

[REDACTED] - BCC

Apology - [REDACTED] - GAA

[REDACTED] opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. He noted that the last meeting of the SAG had been held in May 2014. He recounted the timeline of the involvement of the STG regarding the Casement project and that the last Report of the STG had been forwarded to DCAL on 16.10.13.

The Report of 16.10.13 was given to DCAL prior to a meeting at Causeway Exchange involving some of the members of the STG, DCAL, the GAA, and the Design Team. The meeting was called by DCAL to discuss STG concerns regarding emergency exiting, and the provision of uncovered seating at the proposed stadium and had included some robust discussions. DCAL had advised that an emergency exiting strategy would be forthcoming in the incoming weeks, along with the minutes of the meeting; however these documents have not been received by the STG some 13 months later. It was further noted that an emergency exiting strategy for the proposed stadium had been requested repeatedly by the STG since spring 2013. The plans that the STG provided comment on in the 16.10.13 Report had been forwarded to the Group in late summer 2013 - no further plans have been received for consideration by the STG since that time.

s.F40

s.F40(2)

s.F40(2)(a)

s.F40(2)(b)

s.F40(3)(a)

s.F40(3)(ai)

[REDACTED] advised the Group of meetings that Sport NI had attended that involved DCAL and other agencies that had occurred since the May STG meeting, and of related correspondence etc.

It was noted that DCAL had advised Sport NI that an application for planning permission would not be forwarded, nor would the tendering process to select a Design and Build contractor be commenced before a design for the stadium had been approved by the STG. Both of these processes have now taken place despite agreement not having been reached.

█ advised that the Design and Build contract had been awarded to the █ and of the tenor of a meeting held with representatives of the Group, DCAL, and the GAA held in June.

There was some discussion regarding the Judicial Review into the decision to approve planning permission for the proposed venue.

█ advised of meetings involving the PSNI, the GAA and DCAL that he had attended and of requests made for an emergency exiting strategy for the proposed venue. He noted that at a meeting held on 16.7.14 the GAA had advised the PSNI that an emergency exiting strategy would be provided by 28.8.14 however this document had not been received. He noted that the PSNI had advised the GAA that meetings regarding emergency exiting should involve all agencies represented on the STG.

█ advised of a further meeting held with representatives of the Buckingham Heron Group held in October when Sport NI were told that DCAL had advised the Buckingham Heron Group to speak to each organisation represented on the STG separately and not as a Group.

The Group noted the following:

- The last set of drawings issued to the STG for comment showed that the proposed stadium has a unique design with approximately 72% of the spectators exiting onto the Andersonstown Road – neither the Design Team or members of the STG are aware of any stadium in Great Britain with similar exiting arrangements,
- The last set of drawings submitted to the STG indicated that the stadium did not comply with the content of the Green Guide/ Red Guide, however it was noted that deviations from the content of these documents is permissible provided that an equal or greater level of safety is provided,
- The STG have been requesting an emergency exiting strategy since spring 2013 however this document has not been forthcoming,
- An incident on the Andersonstown Road to the front of the stadium during a fixture could result in some or all of the exits to the Andersonstown Road being unavailable.
- The likelihood of an incident that resulted in the 'loss' of exits during a fixture was low but was reasonably foreseeable.
- The 'loss' of exits to the Andersonstown Road at a well-attended fixture would be likely to result in an emergency exiting time (to a place of safety or reasonable safety) in excess of 8-minutes with attendant concerns relating to spectator safety,
- The rendezvous point for the emergency services is at present located on the Andersonstown Road to the 'city side' of Casement Park - this could lead to access difficulties for emergency vehicles if spectators were on the 'city side' of the Andersonstown Road following an evacuation of the stadium, and the rendezvous point could compromise spectator flow away from the stadium.
- There would be the potential for parking restrictions to be required in the roadways in the vicinity of the stadium depending on the emergency exiting strategy proposed

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s.F40(2)
s.F40(2)(a)
s.F40(2)(b)
s.F40(3)(a)
s.F40(3)(ai)

s.F40
s.F40(2)
s.F40(2)(a)
s.F40(2)(b)
s.F40(3)(a)
s.F40(3)(ai)

The Group noted that although initial discussions relating to the development of the stadium could be discussed with Sport NI, they stated that any proposals for the development of the stadium should be considered by the STG collectively.

It was agreed that the STG would continue to request a copy of the emergency exiting strategy to permit comparison to be made against national guidance and comment accordingly.

The meeting concluded.

[Redacted]

s.F40

s.F40(2)

From: [Redacted]

s.F40(2)(a)

Sent: 17 November 2014 10:23

s.F40(2)(b)

To: [Redacted]

s.F40(3)(a)

Subject: Casement STG

s.F40(3)(ai)

Attachments: STG 13.11.14.docx

s.F40(3)(aii)

Re STG on the 13th November 2014

Dear All

Please find the draft meeting notes from last Thursday. Please read and advise of any changes, additions, deletions etc. Please forward these ASAP but no later than the 21st November 2014.

It is noted that the Group proposed that a letter be forwarded to DCAL regarding our discussions however DCAL asked in June 2013 that meeting notes of the STG be forwarded to them as a matter of course. I would therefore propose to forward the meeting notes including revisions on Monday 24th November 2014.

Regards

[Redacted]

s.F40

s.F40(2)

Tollymore National Outdoor Centre

Tollymore re-opened in June 2010, following a major redevelopment. Sport NI and Tollymore are delighted with the success of the new Centre and the improved range of facilities, including an indoor kayaking pool, indoor rock climbing, mountain bike skills course, full catering facilities, twin ensuite accommodation, and a range of meeting rooms. If you haven't been to visit us yet, please consider calling in soon. For information, offers, news and events, please visit www.tollymore.com

s.F40(2)(a)

s.F40(2)(b)

s.F40(3)(a)

s.F40(3)(ai)

s.F40(3)(aii)



The leading public body for the development of sport in Northern Ireland

[Redacted] | Sport Northern Ireland
House of Sport | 2A Upper Malone Road | Belfast BT9 5LA

[Redacted] w: www.sportni.net

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s.F40

██████████ - Sport NI

s.F40(2)

██████████ - Sport NI

s.F40(2)(a)

s.F40(2)(b)

██████████ - PSNI

s.F40(3)(a)

s.F40(3)(ai)

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██████████ - NIAS

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