



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2015-01174

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Communication Re Womens Under 19 Championship

Request and 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 questions 1 to 8 subject to the deletion of information pursuant to the provisions of Sections 31 and 40 of the Freedom of Information 2000 (the Act).

I seek information in regards to the Northern Ireland .v. England, Women's Under 19 Championship - 2014/15 - Elite Stage, football match originally scheduled to take place at Solitude, Cliftonville Street Belfast at 16:00, Monday 6 April 2015.

Question 1

I seek under FOIA, copies of all PSNI internal and external communications in regards to the above football match, including, but not limited to, letters, emails, telephone logs, details of telephone calls and associated notes, documents & all records on PSNI files.

Question 2

I seek copies of all the above in respect of any communications between the PSNI and the Irish Football Association or their representatives, in regards to the above football match.

Question 3

I seek copies of all the above in respect of any communications between the PSNI and the Northern Ireland Women's Football Association or their representatives, in regards to the above football match.

Question 4

I seek copies of all the above in respect of any communications between the PSNI and the English Football Association or their representatives, in regards to the above football match.

Question 5

I seek copies of all the above in respect of any communications between the PSNI and UEFA or their representatives, in regards to the above football match.

Question 6

I seek copies of all the above in respect of any communications between the PSNI and Mr Stephen Grange, the Irish Football Association's Security Officer, or his representatives, in regards to the above football match.

Question 7

I seek copies of all the above in respect of any communications, internal or external, of PSNI's xxxxxxxx (name given) or his representatives, in regards to the above football match.

Question 8

I seek copies of all the above in respect of any communications or files held, internal or external, of PSNI's 'Ops Planning Events Belfast City District', or their representatives, in regards to the above football match.

Answer 1-8

Please see the details of the exemptions below and the documents below on pages numbered 1 to 5.

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 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 prejudice-based exemption. This means that the legislators have determined that it is necessary to evidence the harm in release and to conduct a public interest test.

Harm Test

The information refers to police direct dial telephone numbers and e-mail addresses 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.

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.

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 and e-mail addresses.

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

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.psnj.police.uk

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.

Not relevant to Request

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 March 2015 19:36
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: 14th UEFA European Women's Under-19 Championship 2014/2015 – GROUP 4 – ELITE ROUND - MATCH SCHEDULE
Importance: High

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

Hi

Please see planned fixtures below.

I wish to bring to your attention the England v N.Ireland match at Cliftonville on Easter Monday. Both countries have played before at this venue without difficulty albeit not at such a sensitive time.

Please let me know if your have any concern about this or any other fixture.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Irish Football Association

[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: 25 March 2015 15:03
To: IrishFA
Subject: 14th UEFA European Women's Under-19 Championship 2014/2015 – GROUP 4 – ELITE ROUND - MATCH SCHEDULE

Hi Folks

Please see below the Women's Under 19 match schedule for the UEFA Championship – Elite Round.

Saturday 4 April 2015

England v Norway	Crusaders	20.00 hrs
Switzerland v Northern Ireland	Cliftonville	20.00 hrs

Monday 6 April 2015

England v Northern Ireland	Cliftonville	16.00 hrs
Norway v Switzerland	Crusaders	13.00 hrs

000001

17/04/2015

Thursday 9 April 2015

Switzerland v England

Northern Ireland v Norway

Crusaders

Cliftonville

15.00 hrs

15.00 hrs

Please note that all matches are free entry.

Kind regards

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted address]

M: [Redacted] | E: [Redacted]

20 Windsor Ave, Belfast, BT9 6EG, Northern Ireland

T: +44 28 90669458 | W:

s.F40


s.F40(2)

s.F40(2)(a)

s.F40(2)(b)

s.F40(3)(a)

s.F40(3)(ai)

 Right-click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of this picture from the Internet. <http://irishfa.com/fs/img/library/irish-fa-community-awards-2015-logo-wet>

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[Redacted]

Not relevant to Request

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 27 March 2015 13:30
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: 1.NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED-All Networks: RE: 14th UEFA European Women's Under-19 Championship 2014/2015 – GROUP 4 – ELITE ROUND - MATCH SCHEDULE
Attachments: Fw: 14th UEFA European Women's Under-19 Championship 2014/2015 – GROUP 4 – ELITE ROUND - MATCH SCHEDULE; WU19 Itinerary Elite Round April 2015.pdf

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

[Redacted]

Thanks for the information.

The following events are happening on Monday 6th April 2015 in the North Belfast area-

Multiple morning ABOD parades including Ardoyne and Clifton St/Donegal Street scenarios.
Two Republican parades early afternoon New Lodge and Ardoyne areas
Return afternoon ABOD parades North St/ Peters Hill
Evening -Ligoneil Combine parade Twadell area
Event and Resource Planning for these has been ongoing for the last 3 weeks or so.

Have discussed this with the Area Commander T/C/Insp Gavin Kirkpatrick and [Redacted] Ops Support dept.

Potential issues around this competition and fixtures on 6th April could be reduced by swapping the NI-England fixture with the one shown for Norway- Switzerland to be played at Seaview the same day.

If possible in future can local Police be consulted at an earlier stage re potentially sensitive fixtures?
Hope this suggestion isn't too much of a problem.
Thanks.

[Redacted]

Ops Planning Events
Belfast City District
Musgrave
Extn [Redacted]
Direct [Redacted]
Blackberry [Redacted]

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

[Redacted]

Not relevant to Request

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 27 March 2015 13:45
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]

Subject: Re: 1.NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED-All Networks: RE: 14th UEFA European Women's Under-19 Championship 2014/2015 - GROUP 4 - ELITE ROUND - MATCH SCHEDULE

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

[Redacted]

Apologies, I was only made aware yesterday. They have used Cliftonville before and probably did not appreciate the significance of the Easter period.

Have offered similar advice regarding the change of venue but will re-visit with your sensible comments.

[Redacted]

Irish Football Association

M: [Redacted] **E:** [Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 27 March 2015 13:29
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]

Subject: 1.NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED-All Networks: RE: 14th UEFA European Women's Under-19 Championship 2014/2015 - GROUP 4 - ELITE ROUND - MATCH SCHEDULE

[Redacted]

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s.F31
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