



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2015-03234

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Number of TSG Unit Deployments

Request and Answer:

Question 1

Could you provide the number of times TSG units have been deployed in the (i) Omagh (ii) Strabane districts in each of the past three years?

Question 2

Could you provide the number of times TSG units have been deployed in the (i) Omagh (ii) Strabane districts from April 1 2015 to date?

Question 3

Could you provide the number of officers assigned to TSG units operating in Co Tyrone (broken down by district) in each of the past five years?

Request for Clarification: The record keeper has informed us that to answer question 1 of your FOI request, it would be necessary for them to manually trawl their register of tasks to determine the number of times TSG units have been deployed and this would involve examining approximately four thousand records per year and to do this would put your request over cost. However they have informed us that it would be possible to provide the information requested in questions 2 and 3 within the cost limit. Bearing this information in mind, would you be content to withdraw question 1 from your FOI request and to receive the answers to questions 2 and 3?

Clarification Response: If you can only answer questions 2 and 3, can you amend as follows:

Question 2

Could you provide the number of times TSG units have been deployed in the (i) Omagh (ii) Strabane (iii) Dungannon (iv) Cookstown districts from April 1 2015 to date?

Answer

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full.

Please find the table below which provides the requested information on the number of times Tactical Support Group (TSG) units have been deployed in the Omagh, Strabane, Dungannon and Cookstown areas from the 1st of April 2015 to 19th October 2015.

Area	TSG Deployments
Omagh	32
Strabane	46
Cookstown	24
Dungannon	23

Note: This information refers to the number of times departments / districts have tasked TSG Resources to the above areas from 1ST April 2015 onwards.

Question 3

Could you provide the number of officers assigned to TSG units operating in Co Tyrone (broken down by district) in each of the past five years?

Answer

The established standard number of officers assigned to a TSG unit is 1 Inspector, 4 Sergeants, and 23 Constables. However, the operational strength of any TSG unit is likely to vary on a monthly basis due to a number of factors including retirements, promotions, repositioning of personnel etc. Currently the unit based in County Tyrone has an operating strength of 1 Inspector, 4 Sergeants, and 20 Constables.

Please note, that due to the nature of their role, the majority of the PSNI TSG units would have operated in County Tyrone at some stage over the past five years. However there is only one TSG unit which has a base within the County Tyrone boundaries and it is the information for this TSG unit which has been supplied above.

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.