



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2015-02607

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Portable Fingerprinting

Request and Answer:

Question

I was hoping to submit a request for information regarding the use of portable fingerprinting by PSNI. If possible could you provide for me?

1. The date portable finger printing was first used in the north by PSNI officers?
2. How many times portable fingerprinting by the PSNI has been used in North Belfast since it was first deployed?
3. How many times it has been used in Belfast since it was first deployed and
4. How many times it has been used in the North of Ireland since it was first deployed.

Clarification Request: Can you provide clarification as to what is meant by the term "portable finger printing"? Does this relate to finger printing carried out when in custody at a police station or does it relate to any finger printing carried out by officers outside of police stations?

Clarification Response: The data I was looking for would relate to specifically outside of the station

Clarification Request: The record keeper responsible for the requested information has informed us that it is possible to provide the requested information in response to questions 1 and 4 within the cost limit, however in order to determine in which specific area the portable finger printing was performed would require a manual inspection of each individual record and that this would take approximately 43 hours, which would result in your FOI request being over cost. Bearing this information in mind, would you be content for questions 2 and 3 to be omitted from your request so that it would be possible to provide you with the requested information for questions 1 and 4?

Clarification Response: Yes, that would be fine thank you.

Question 1

I was hoping to submit a request for information regarding the use of portable fingerprinting by PSNI. If possible could you provide for me?

The date portable finger printing was first used in the north by PSNI officers?

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.

The 'MobileID' (Mobile Fingerprint Technology) was introduced by the PSNI in August 2014. The system was initially trailed by the Belfast district, the Roads Policing team, and within the PSNI 'E District' in the council areas of Armagh, Banbridge, Craigavon, and Newry and Mourne.

Question 2

How many times portable fingerprinting by the PSNI has been used in North Belfast since it was first deployed?

Answer

Question withdrawn under clarification.

Question 3

How many times it has been used in Belfast since it was first deployed?

Answer

Question withdrawn under clarification.

Question 4

How many times it has been used in the North of Ireland since it was first deployed?

Answer

From August 2014 to the date of this request PSNI Officers have used the 'MobileID' technology approximately 650 times across the entirety of Northern Ireland. 50 PSNI officers were issued with these devices during the initial trail basis and there are now currently 450 PSNI officers with the capability to use this device.

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.