



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2015-01885

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Illegal Flags

Request and Answer:

Question

Could the PSNI advise if there are any flags they consider illegal (by listing them) and what action will they take to remove them if erected.

Answer

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested.

There is no bespoke legislation which gives the police a general power to either prevent flags of any type being erected or to remove them once they are flying. Flags may constitute evidence of an offence but cannot themselves be "illegal" due to the lack of bespoke legislation.

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.