



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2015-02127

**Keyword:** Organisational Information/Governance

**Subject:** Police Road Traffic Collisions

### Request and Answer:

#### Question

I write with a freedom of information request about collisions involving police cars. Please could you tell me the following:

1a) How many police cars have collided with pedestrians in 2015 so far? In each case, please detail the date of the crash, the speed of the police car at the time, was it responding to an emergency, the location of the incident, the extent of the person or persons' injuries and what, if any, was the penalty for the police driver. Please also detail the age and gender of the pedestrian.

b) How many police cars have collided with animals in 2015 so far? In each case, please detail the date of the crash, the speed of the police car at the time, the location of the incident, was it responding to an emergency, what the animal was, the extent of the animals' injuries and what, if any, was the penalty for the police driver.

c) How many police cars have been involved in crashes with other cars this year? In each case, please detail the date of the crash, the speed of the police car at the time, the location of the incident, make and model of the other car, any injuries sustained by any parties, what the damage was to the two vehicles, and what, if any, was the penalty for the police driver.

2a - c) Same for the calendar year 2014.

3a - c) Same for the calendar year 2013.

#### Answer

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit) to provide you the applicant with a notice which states that fact.

It is estimated that the cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the "appropriate costs limit" under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450.

In relation to your request, the record keeper has informed us that there were 174 injury collisions

over the 3 year period requested. However in order to determine which of these incidents may have involved pedestrians or animals, and to provide the requested breakdown of each incident, would require a manual examination of each incident report and it has been estimated that to do this and compile the requested information would take approximately 29 hours and would exceed the legislative cost limit for this FOI request.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice, and the request has therefore been closed.

You may wish to submit a refined request in order that the cost of complying with your request may be facilitated within the 'appropriate limit'. In compliance with Section 16 of the Act, I have considered how your request may be refined to bring it under the appropriate limit. Given the current estimations, if the time period of the request were to be limited to a single year then this should result in the request coming in within the legislative cost limit. Alternatively removing some parts of the questions that require a manual trawl to be carried out, parts a) or b), would bring the request within the legislative limit.

Submission of a refined request would be treated as a new request, and considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, including consideration of relevant Part II exemptions.

If you have any queries regarding your request or this 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](mailto: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](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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