

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2015-03520

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Wreath Laying Policy

Request and Answer:

Question

Please can you confirm for me if there is an existing policy, negative or positive regarding the laying of poppy wreaths at war memorials on Remembrance Sunday in memory of the Royal Irish Constabulary and the Royal Ulster Constabulary George Cross.

If so, is this performed by a uniformed serving member of the Police Service of Northern Ireland?

Answer

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Act I can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold information to which your request relates.

At this time there is no written policy on this matter. Members of the PSNI regularly lay poppy wreaths at remembrance events across Northern Ireland. When representing the Service they do so in uniform and lay PSNI wreaths.

It should be remembered that the Royal Ulster Constabulary GC was incorporated into the Police Service of Northern Ireland and serving officers and staff attend annual Remembrance events in both the RUC GC Garden of Remembrance and the PSNI Memorial Garden. During these events the Chief Constable or Deputy Chief Constable lays a PSNI wreath on behalf of the Service in memory of all those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

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.