



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2017-02932

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Reputational Risk

Request and Answer:

Request

This request is for the department of your force in charge of managing Freedom of Information requests. For convenience, this is referred to below as the 'information management unit'. The request is as follows - Are staff in charge of gathering information to fulfil a Freedom of Information request asked to inform their managers or the information management unit of any 'reputational risk' posed to the force by releasing the information? This applies to all stages of the progress of the Freedom of Information Request, from receipt of the request up until the information applicant is informed of the outcome.

Answer

Searches were conducted however these searches failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided. The Freedom of Information (FOI) Unit can advise that there is no recorded information held that requires managers to be informed of requests that may cause reputational risk. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) does not hold the information to which you seek access.

I can advise that all officers and police staff in the PSNI follow our FOI Service Procedure which requires them to identify if there is any harm to individuals, the community, the police service or other organisations in releasing any requested information into the public domain. Staff in the FOI unit who are trained in the legislation will then assess any views given in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). Reputational risk or embarrassment is not a valid exemption for withholding information under the FOIA.

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.