



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2018-01689

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Case Reviews

### Request and 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 hold information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Please note this request and F-2018-02113 have been aggregated as they are on the same subject matter.

### Request 1

Can you confirm which policing district the area of Upper Springfield Road and Hannahstown would have fallen under in 1974?

### Answer

As policing districts have changed numerous times from 1974 I cannot establish what policing district covered the area of Upper Springfield Road and Hannahstown at that time, however this area would have been covered by Andersontown RUC Station.

### Request 2

Two long-term missing cases which were previously reviewed by the PSNI were that of 11-year-old Thomas Spence and 13-year-old John Rodgers. Can you confirm whether the case has recently been reviewed?

### Answer

The case was previously reviewed by police in 2001 and following the review a number of investigative actions were undertaken in 2001 which included witness enquiries; House to House enquiries and forensic archaeological searches at two locations. The investigative action taken in 2001 did not identify any evidence capable of progressing the wider investigation into the disappearance of Thomas Spence or John Rodgers. The review of this case is now within the caseload of Legacy Investigation Branch (LIB) to consider afresh.

### Request 3

Can you confirm the outcome of this?

**Answer**

The case was previously reviewed by police in 2001 and following the review a number of investigative actions were undertaken in 2001 which included witness enquiries; House to House enquiries and forensic archaeological searches at two locations. The investigative action taken in 2001 did not identify any evidence capable of progressing the wider investigation into the disappearance of Thomas Spence or John Rodgers.

**Request 4**

Does this case remain an active investigation?

**Answer**

The review of this case is now within the caseload of Legacy Investigation Branch to consider afresh. The commencement date of the LIB review cannot be estimated at this time. Should further evidential lines of enquiry be identified, capable of progressing the investigation into the disappearance of Thomas Spence and John Rodgers they will be considered by LIB.

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](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.psnipolice.uk](http://www.psnipolice.uk)

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