



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2018-00345

**Keyword:** Operational Policing

**Subject:** Custody Suites

### 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.

#### Request 1

I request a list of operational custody suites within Northern Ireland. For each suite, please provide a breakdown of how many cells are in each and whether the cells have a toilet facility in-cell; ie Musgrave Suite has 10 cells, of which 5 have in-cell toilets.

#### Answer

Please find below details of operational custody suites within Northern Ireland with a breakdown of how many cells are in each and whether the cells have a toilet facility in-cell

1. Antrim – 20 cells, all with toilets
2. Coleraine – 10 cells, all with toilets
3. Strand Road – 9 cells, none with toilets
4. Banbridge – 7 cells, none with toilets
5. Dungannon – 5 cells, 3 without toilets
6. Lurgan – 6 cells, none with toilets
7. Omagh – 10 cells, all with toilets
8. Musgrave – 50 cells, all with toilets
9. Enniskillen (temporarily closed)– 8 cells, all with toilets
10. Strabane – moth-balled suite, 6 cells all with toilets
11. Bangor – moth-balled suite, 7 cells, all with toilets

#### Request 2

I request any considerations or reasons listed as to why Limavady Custody Suite was closed. This includes a list of any lack of facilities.

#### Answer

Limavady custody suite was closed in 2014/15 as part of Phase 1 of the Custody Reform programme. This was an organisational review of organisational cell capacity and best use of resources to deliver safer custody. Limavady was a small suite of 4 cells requiring modernisation. Capacity was available in Coleraine custody, Antrim custody and Strand Road to facilitate the suite

closure and reallocation of police resources required to run the suite. Minimum staffing 1 sergeant and 1 CDO per shift.

### **Request 3**

I also request any considerations or reasons listed as to why Dungannon Custody Suite is recommended for closure. This includes a list of any lack of facilities.

### **Answer**

Dungannon custody is approved by Service Executive Board for closure this financial year. This is part of the service reduction to an 8 suite operational model with 2 contingency suites. This 5 cell suite requires modernisation. Cell capacity exists within Omagh custody and refurbished Lurgan suite to manage volume of detentions. Decision to retain Enniskillen suite longer term and accordingly is included in the phase 2 refurbishment plan. Enniskillen custody is closed and works will commence shortly. When Enniskillen re-opens Dungannon will close permanently.

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.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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