



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-00852

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Text Alert Schemes

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 (PSNI) does hold information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Request 1

How many PCSP's have a Text Alert Scheme in place and what is their aim/use?

Answer

Eight PSNI Districts currently have a Text Alert Scheme in place with local PCSP's, with a further one scheduled to commence in the near future. The aim of these Schemes is to share information with a variety of groups within each PCSP. e.g. Businesses, Farmers, Neighbourhood Watch Schemes, Schools & individuals to publicise events, send security advice, and to get immediate messages to registered users to assist the PSNI & PCSP to reduce crime and help keep the community in which they live or work safer. It is also used to send appeals for information in a specific area, together with Crime Prevention messages and alerts regarding on-going crime in the area.

Request 2

Do PSNI have any Text Alert Schemes internally and what are they used for?

Answer

The PSNI do not have any internal Text Alert Schemes in place.

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.