



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-01415

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Public Statement by Sir Ronnie Flanagan

Request and Answer:

Request

I believe that Sir Ronnie Flanagan before departing office made a public statement where he outlined that he believed that there was a 'blurring of the edges' between certain ranks within the RUC, Can I have a copy of that public statement please?

Answer

I contacted Corporate Communications Branch who conducted searches however these searches failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided.

However our understanding is that Sir Ronnie Flanagan made comments regarding "blurring of the edges" during a radio interview in December 1998. The Chief Constable stated : "*I have no doubt that at membership level, there is contact and there is some blurring of the edges between all of these organisations*", however this was not in relation to certain ranks within the RUC but rather members of the Real IRA.

PSNI do not have any public statement as this was a comment made during a radio interview. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

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.psnipolice.uk

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