



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2021-00529

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Media Appearances by the PSNI

Request and Answer:

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Act we 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 am writing to request information on media appearances by Police Service of Northern Ireland (and preceding agencies) in a documentary style, such as but not limited to 'Road Wars', 'Police Interceptors', 'Brit Cops' etc., where a camera person(s) is deployed with police officers and are followed throughout their tour of duty. This is for the time period 2003 to present. I would like to know Name of production.

Clarification to Requester

Can you please confirm what you reference to regard as 'and preceding agencies'

Can you please provide a timescale for your request - Question 1

Clarification from Requester

Preceding agencies refers to any organisation that has merged into PSNI.

Time period is 2003 to present.

Request 2

Production Company

Request 3

Policing Unit(s)/Investigation(s)/Operation(s) followed

Request 4

Status of Unit (active/disbanded/reformed/reorganized)

Answer

The following table will provide answers to request numbers 1-4

Name of production	Information in public domain	Production Company	Policing unit involved	Status of Policing Unit (active/ disbanded /reformed /re-organized)
Road Patrol NI 2009	https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00qn0l0	Sterling Productions'	See link	Active
Crash	https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/entertainment/film-tv/bbc-crash-series-concludes-insight-into-fatal-northern-ireland-collisions-36148230.html	BBC	See Link	Active
Borderlands	https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0002ps5	BBC	District Policing	Active
Street Wars	www.rawcut.tv/production/street-wars/	See link	Tactical Support Group	Active

Request 5

I would also like to know the current stance on 2021 (ignoring COVID-19) for these types of shows to be filmed with Police Service of Northern Ireland - are they encouraged?

Answer

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 legislates for the rights of an individual to seek access to recorded information. The Act only extends to requests for *recorded information* as defined by Section 84 of the Act and does not require public authorities to answer questions or create information to answer an FOI request.

Based on the information you have requested, a question or opinion will not necessarily constitute a 'valid request' if it is asking PSNI to speculate or to provide information which is not recorded.

Further information on what constitutes a valid request can be found on the Information Commissioner's Office website:

<https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1164/recognising-a-request-made-under-the-foia.pdf>

Your question therefore is not a valid request, as PSNI does not hold information on the speculative element of this question.

Request 6

If encouraged, are you actively engaged in filming currently, and if so, what production? If not encouraged or banned, is there reasoning behind this, for example a negative experience/portrayal previously?

Answer

As explained in request number 6 we cannot speculate if encouraged, however PSNI can advise that we are currently engaged with the BBC's Crime Watch for a documentary about the work of our

Major Investigations Teams.

Request 7

On a similar line, police forces used to sell dashcam footage as 'filler' in these documentary shows, between their own self shot materials. Does Police Service of Northern Ireland sell dashcam, or otherwise make them available?

Answer

PSNI do not sell Dashcam footage.

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 Corporate Information Branch, 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 Corporate Information Branch, 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.psni.police.uk

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