



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: FOI-2022-01837

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: PSNI Participation in Pride Parade

Request and Answer:

Your request for information has now been considered in respect of Section 1(1) (a) of the Act. PSNI do not consider this to be valid requests under the FOI Act but we have provided further guidance for you to explain this and have tried to provide as much detail here outside of the Act to assist your understanding of this process.

Request

Could I please get an explanation why the police force of Northern Ireland are participating in the Pride Parade, as I thought the Police are an impartial organisation?

Answer

The Freedom of Information Act requires PSNI to provide a response to a request for 'recorded' information which is held (s.1 FOIA). A question 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>

However to assist you we can advise; The Police Service of Northern Ireland is committed to positive engagement with all communities, including the LGBT+ community. Pride is an important series of events for those who identify as LGBT+ and we welcome opportunities to engage with, and show our support for, members of the LGBT+ community, both internally and externally.

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 remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, 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', or use the ICO self-service portal available at www.ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/officialinformation-concerns-report/official-information-concern/

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 their 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.