

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: FOI-2021-02489

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Attacks on Greencastle RUC Station 1969 - 1998

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 some information to which your request relates and this is being provided to you. However, we cannot provide you with the information to cover the entire time period specified in your request as this would have resulted in the request being deemed an over cost. Therefore, we have taken the decision to disclose this information for the refined time period you suggested in your initial request. More detail on how we made this decision is discussed below.

You requested the following information from PSNI:

General Request

Please provide me with details of all terrorist attacks on Greencastle RUC Station, Shore Road, Greencastle, North Belfast, between 1969 and 1998. It is most likely these attacks took place in the early 1970's, and would respectfully suggest you look at the years 1970 to 1976 in the first instance.

I require details of:

Request 1

the date and time of the attacks

Request 2

means of attack – i.e. gunfire, rocket, grenade etc.,

Request 3

any injuries to security force personnel or members of the public

Request 4

and the extent of the damage to the station and surrounding area.

Answers

Please find enclosed a separate document which lists all attacks on Greencastle RUC Station between January 1970 and June 1976 which includes the date and time, means of attack, injuries to personnel and members of the public and any damage sustained for each listed attack.

Please note that this document does not cover the entire time period specified in your initial request as to include all attacks from this period would have resulted in this request being deemed an over cost. To provide details of attacks on Greencastle RUC Station between 1969 and 1990 would have involved manually reading through many years of handwritten paper records which would have certainly taken us over the legislative 18 hours “appropriate costs limit” under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

As you provided a suggested time period of 1970 to 1976 we have decided to provide you with this information as obtaining the information for this period alone was determined to be within the FOI legislative costs threshold.

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.psnj.police.uk

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