

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2021-02882

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: PACE Custody Clocks

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

Request 1

When a detained person is entered into PACE Custody, a PACE clock on detention periods begins. The person's time piece is removed. They are put into a cell with no way of tracking detention times. Why do you do this?

Answer

PSNI will remove all items of value and hold them for the detainee; this includes watches, money and jewellery. This comes from the Safer Handling Manual which has since been superseded by the College of Policing's Authorised Professional Practice. It is believed this practice ensures valuables are listed on the custody record and kept safely.

In addition to this Article 55 of PACE (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 states "taking the property will reduce the possibility of articles being taken from the detainee by other persons in the suite".

Request 2

Should there not be a PACE digital clock in each cell and do you plan to rectify this abhorrent behaviour?

Answer

There are no plans to put PACE clocks into cells. Currently there is a call button in every cell and detainees can ask what time it is at any time during their detention.

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.psn.police.uk

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