



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2020-00287

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: Damage To Property By PSNI Non PACE

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 information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

What happens when members of the PSNI damage property belonging to members of the public. This does not relate to damage caused during searches under PACE or losses caused by the holding of crime scenes.

As an example police officers are attempting to arrest a person in a public street. During the arrest damage is caused to a car or building of a member of the public who is not involved in any way with the incident.

Request 1

Is there a written policy in respect of damage caused other than during pace searches?

Answer

No, all claims are thoroughly investigated on a case by case basis and reviewed by one the legal team who will make a determination regarding liability.

Request 2

Since Aug 2017 how many such incidents have had a claim submitted?

Answer

There have been a total of 75 claims submitted.

Request 3

How many were successful?

Answer

A total of 30 claims have been successful.

Request 4

How many were refused by Legal services?

Answer

A total of 18 cases have been refused by Legal Services.

Request 5

Why were they refused?

Answer

All cases were assessed and there was no legal liability in any of the 18 cases to pay compensation.

Please note, there are a total of 24 cases currently ongoing, 1 case has been withdrawn and 2 cases have been dismissed at court.

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.psnipolice.uk

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