



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2020-01343

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Investigation Into Barry McCaffrey And Trevor Birney

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.

Request 1

I am writing in regards to the investigation into Mr Barry McCaffrey and Mr Trevor Birney. For guidance, please see the following article: <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/police-drop-case-against-journalists-96crdffrm>. I am seeking the following information:

Request 1

Please state how many a) hours were spent and b) officers were involved in the above investigation, until now.

Answer

PSNI do not hold a record of specific hours worked on this investigation by PSNI Officers. However we can confirm that PSNI provided the following approximate numbers of officers to assist the investigation as it has progressed:

- 1 Detective Sergeant and 1 Detective Constable utilised 1 day per week assisting with general enquiries during the investigation. From June 2019 this has reduced to 1 officer utilised one day per month. No officer has been assisting since September 2019.
- There were approximately 50 officers utilised for specific duties during the search period; including searches, interviews and examining exhibits following on from this, post search duties (examining exhibits) were completed by approximately 4 officers for a one week period.

Request 2

Please state the cost to your force of the above investigation? Please note a separate request will be sent to Durham Constabulary. I wish only to obtain figures and costs related to your police force.

Answer

PSNI can confirm that it is covering all of the costs of this investigation. As this is an ongoing investigation costs will be still incurred and further invoices submitted changing this amount.

This information you request is contained in the Chief Constables report to Northern Ireland Policing Board dated 3rd September 2020 and is available on the PSNI website at:

<https://www.psni.police.uk/news/Latest-News/030920-chief-constable-report-to-nipb/>

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.