



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2020-02268

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Tape Interviews

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

What are the current guidelines in regards to how long a tape is to be kept before it is destroyed?

Request 2

When were they changed and what were they previously?

Answer

The information requested has been provided in the table below.

Retention & Disposal Schedule	Dates Active	Interview Tape	Retention Timeframe
RUC Code Section Appendix 21 (1E)	August 1980 to January 2005	Interview Tapes	Not specifically listed
PSNI Review, Retention & Disposal Schedule Version 0.1	December 2005 to March 2011	Non Serious crime custody interview tapes	Destroy 7 year after the conclusion of any prosecution or any decision to No Further Action
		Serious crime interview tapes	Retain Permanently
PSNI Review, Retention & Disposal Schedule Version 0.2	November 2011 to 6 October 2020	Non Serious crime custody interview tapes	Destroy 10 years after the conclusion of any prosecution or any decision to No Further Action
		Serious crime interview tapes	Retain until the person has reached 100 years of age.

PSNI Review, Retention & Disposal Schedule Version 0.3	W.E.F - 7 October 2020	Interview Tapes - Master Copy	Review according to crime type minimum of 6 years. Further retention as per Management of police information guidelines.
		Interview Tapes - Custody Copy	Retain 6 years from date of interview
		Interview Tapes - Working Copy	One Month following case closure

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.