

Keeping People Safe



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** FOI-2021-02517

**Keyword:** Operational Policing

**Subject:** ANPR Cameras

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

### Request

On the basis that the ANPR cameras are switched on 24/7 an enormous amount of number plates must be captured daily.

The question that I am now putting to you is that given the volume of number plates captured is this interference proportionate and justified?

### Answer

The Police have an obligation under Section 32 of the Police Act 2000 to: protect life and property, preserve order, and prevent the commission of offences, where an offence has been committed to take measures to bring the offender to justice. It is well established that the use of technology such as automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) is integral to modern day policing helping focus police resources and leading to the apprehension of offenders that would otherwise evade police. ANPR is intended to deny criminals the use of the road.

The legal basis for ANPR is established by reference to Part 3 of the Data Protection Act 2018, Common Law and is implicit from the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 that includes requirements for law enforcement use of ANPR to comply with the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice. The PSNI is fully compliant with all relevant legislation and associated Codes of Practice.

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](mailto: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/](http://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.psnipolice.uk](http://www.psnipolice.uk)

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