



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2022-02206

**Keyword:** Organisational Information Police Vehicles

**Subject:** Police Collisions in Causeway Coast and Glens District

### Request and Answer:

Your request for information below has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) We can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) does hold the information you have requested however it is estimated that the cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the “appropriate costs limit” under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

### Request 1

Please can you send me the statistics for the number of police collisions for Causeway Coast and Glen district, from 2018 to date? For each month can you state; Total number of collisions and type of each police collision (damage only, injury, etc.)

### Request 2a

For the different types of collisions, for the respective months: the number of police drivers that had their police driving authority removed.

### Request 2b

The number that were interviewed regarding the collision.

### Request 3

For 2022 can you tell me how many civilians have been interviewed for damage only ‘Road Traffic Collisions’?

### Clarification Sent To Requester:

In relation to Request 3 - Can you please confirm if your request is for all of Northern Ireland or Causeway Coast and Glen’s district only?

### Clarification Sent To Requester:

Causeway Coast and Glen only please.

### Answers

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit) to provide you the applicant with a notice which states that fact.

It is estimated that the cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the “appropriate costs limit” under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Section 12 of FOIA allows a public authority to refuse to deal with a request where it estimates that it would exceed the appropriate limit to either comply with the request in its entirety or confirm or deny whether the requested information is held. The estimate must be reasonable in the circumstances of the case. The ‘appropriate limit’ is currently £600 for central government and £450 for all other public authorities including PSNI. The relevant Regulations which define the appropriate limit for section 12 purposes are The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulation 2004 SI 2004 No 3244. These are known as the ‘Fees Regulations’ for brevity.

Regulation 4(3) of the Fees Regulations states that a public authority can take into account the costs it reasonably expects to incur in carrying out the following permitted activities in complying with the request:

- (i) determining whether the information is held;
- (ii) locating the information, or a document containing it;
- (iii) retrieving the information, or a document containing it; and
- (iv) extracting the information from a document containing it.

Under those regulations PSNI can calculate the time spent on each of these permitted activities at £25 per hour (thus if the activity(s) takes more than 18 hours PSNI will be in excess of the ‘appropriate limit’).

Enquiries made in relation to your request have identified that retrieval of this information would exceed the 18 hour cost limit set under the FOI Act by the Secretary of State. The information requested is not held in a retrievable format that provides the information without manual intervention. PSNI have identified for the timeframe requested there were a total of 1082 ‘Damage Only’ collisions recorded within the Causeway Coast and Glen’s district. Each record would need to be individually reviewed to determine if ‘A civilian had been interviewed’. Allowing 5 minutes to review each individual record amounts to over 85 hours of work, grossly exceeding the legislative timescale of 18 hours.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice, and the request has therefore been closed.

### **Advice and Assistance**

You may wish to submit a refined request in order that the cost of complying with your request may be facilitated within the ‘appropriate limit’. In compliance with Section 16 of the Act, I have considered how your request may be refined to bring it under the appropriate limit.

- **Request 1** – PSNI can provide the number of police collisions for the Causeway Coast and Glens District for the calendar years 2018 to 12 September 2022.
- **Request 2a** – PSNI can provide the number of police drivers that had their police driving authority removed
- **Request 2b** – PSNI can provide the number of police drivers that were interviewed regarding the collision.
- **Request 3** – PSNI can provide the number of civilians who have attended custody voluntary for an interview regarding a ‘Damage Only Road Traffic Collision’ - but only if a suspected offence had been committed. *(This would only include the number of civilians that attended interviews voluntarily and will not include notebook interviews which may have been conducted at the roadside or other locations.)*

**Please note;** *Involvement in a Road Traffic Collision is not a criminal offence and so an interview would only occur if an offence had been established.*

Submission of a refined request would be treated as a new request, and considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, including consideration of relevant Part II exemptions.

If you have any queries regarding your request or this 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 Corporate Information Manager, Corporate Information Branch, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing [foi@psni.police.uk](mailto:foi@psni.police.uk).

If you remain unhappy about how your request has been handled you have the right to apply in writing to the Information Commissioner at 'Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. There are a number of other platforms you can use to contact the ICO and these can be found on the ICO's website at the following link: [Make a complaint | ICO \(https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/](https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/)

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.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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