



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2022-02668

**Keyword:** Organisational Information Procurement, Contracts and Contractors

**Subject:** PSNI Procurement

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

#### Request 1

The FOI request in relation to the spend of £11 million pounds on Rugged Laptops that do not operate in a range of areas in the province, no signals are obtained in Saintfield, Ballygomartin Road, Ligonell, and throughout other counties, my request is:

Did the PSNI Procurement Team along with, I assume, your ICT Department carry out a full investigation of software and internet capability for the whole province before going ahead with the purchase of this very expensive equipment;

#### Answer 1

Throughout April 2020 to June 2021, PSNI ran a Business lead working group made up of representatives from across the organisation to evaluate the rugged laptops. During this period, a range of devices and pilots were carried out across the province involving a range of districts. A number of evaluation and engagement groups were carried out across each district such as 'Focus Groups', surveys followed to gather feedback. Benchmarking was also carried out against a number of other forces.

The rugged laptops have the capability to use Wi-Fi or 4G connection which is predicated on the current EE mobile sim contract which PSNI currently have with BT.

#### Request 2

What investigations and the length of trialling given to each of the manufacturers' laptops, and the capabilities of each laptop prior to procurement and the main reason for the procurement of those purchased.

#### Answer

See above answer.

#### Request 3

What further developments are in place so that all the internet coverage within the whole of the

province is being used to ensure that all officers are able to use the equipment that also includes their mobile phones?

**Answer**

Where coverage concerns have been identified, PSNI are working with BT to review options.

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 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, following an Internal Review carried out by an independent decision maker, you remain unhappy about how your request has been handled you have the right to apply in writing to the Information Commissioner, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, 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.