



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2020-03266

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Catering/FM Contracts

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 some information to which your request relates and this is being provided to you. We further consider the information you seek in request number 16 is exempt by virtue of sections 31 & 38 of FOIA and have detailed our rationale as to why this exemption applies. We have also provided you with links to guidance issued by the Information Commissioner's Office which we have followed in responding to your request.

Request 1

Is a catering restaurant or café provided on the premises?

Answer

PSNI Record Owner has advised that Catering restaurants are provided at 21 locations.

Request 2

What are the addresses of the buildings in which the restaurants or cafés are located?

Answer

PSNI Record Owner has advised the information requested in the following table.

SITE	ADDRESS
Ardmore	PSNI Ardmore, 3 Belfast Road, Ardmore, Newry, BT34 1EF
Ballymena	PSNI Ballymena, 25 Galgorm Road, Ballymena, BT43 5EY
Banbridge	PSNI Banbridge, 14 Castlewellan Road, Banbridge, BT32 4AT
Brooklyn	Brooklyn, 59-65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LB
Castlereagh	PSNI Castlereagh, 2 Alexander Road, Belfast, BT6 9HG
Coleraine	PSNI Coleraine, 17-19 Lodge Road, Coleraine, BT52 1LY
Dungannon	PSNI Dungannon, 2 Quarry Lane, Dungannon, BT70 1HY
Enniskillen	PSNI Enniskillen, 20 Queen Street, Enniskillen, BT74 7JR
Garnerville	Garnerville, 77-79 Garnerville Road, Belfast, BT4 2NW
Lislea Drive	Lislea Drive, 14-16 Lislea Drive, Lisburn Road, Belfast, BT9 7JE

Lisnasharragh	Lisnasharragh, 40 Montgomery Road, Belfast, BT6 9HL
Lurgan	PSNI Lurgan, 60-62 Church Place, Lurgan, BT66 6HD
Magilligan	Magilligan Army Camp, Point Road, Magilligan, BT49 0LR
Mahon Road	PSNI Mahon Road, Mahon Road, Portadown, BT62 3EH
Maydown	Maydown, Maydown Road, Londonderry, BT47 1TU
Musgrave	PSNI Musgrave Street, 6 Musgrave Street, Belfast, BT1 3HX
Omagh	PSNI Omagh, 33-35 Mountjoy Road, Omagh, BT79 7BE
Seapark	PSNI Seapark, 151 Belfast Road, Carrickfergus, BT38 8PL
Strabane	PSNI Strabane, 23 The Bowling Green, Strabane, BT82 6BW
Strand Road	PSNI Strand Road, 81A Strand Road, Londonderry, BT48 7AA
Steeple	PSNI Steeple Barracks, Steeple Road, Antrim, BT41 1AD

Request 3

Who is the current catering incumbent of the catering contract?

Answer

PSNI Record Owner has advised that Sodexo are the incumbent catering provider.

Request 4

What is the catering value? (Or is it nil subsidy?) Are the catering facilities shared with other departments?

Answer

PSNI Record Owner has advised the annual cost of restaurant provision is approx. £1.4m per year

Request 5

When is the catering service contract due for re-tender?

Answer

PSNI Record Owner has advised that it is anticipated that catering services will next be due for tender in 2025.

Request 6

How will it be re-tendered?

Answer

PSNI Record Owner has advised It is expected that re-tender will be via CPD, advertised on eTenders NI.

Request 7

Is the contract part of a PFI?

Answer

PSNI Record Owner has advised that No the contract is not part of a PFI.

Request 8

Is it part of an FM contract? (and if so, what services are also included in the contract?)

Answer

PSNI Record Owner has advised No, but recently was awarded contract includes cleaning.

Request 9

Who provides the other soft FM services?

Answer

PSNI Record Owner has advised Soft services are provided by Catering Department, Sodexo Catering Contractor, Estate Services Property Management and Health & Safety advisors.

Request 10

Who will be the main person leading on the tender during the formal tender process?

Answer

PSNI Record Owner has advised that the Central Procurement Directorate, Procurement Manager leads the Tender process.

Request 11

When will the tender notice be issued?

Answer

PSNI Record Owner has advised that it is anticipated to be August 2024.

Request 12

Where will the tender notice be issued?

Answer

PSNI Record Owner has advised that it is anticipated to be on eTenders NI.

Request 13

When is the tender due for release?

Answer

PSNI Record Owner has advised that it is Anticipated to be August 2024.

Request 14

Is it on CCS framework?

Answer

PSNI Record Owner has advised No it is not on CCS framework.

Request 15

Who in the department is responsible for the management of the contract?

Answer

PSNI Record Owner has advised that the Procurement and Logistic Services Contract Manager.

Request 16

How many people are there on site per day?

Answer

Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states that fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

The exemption/s, as well as the factors the Department considered when deciding where the public interest lies, are listed below:

Section 31(1)(a)(b) – Law Enforcement – the prevention or detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

Section 38 (1)(b) – Health & Safety – Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to (b) endanger the safety of any individual.

The full text of exemptions can be found at www.legislation.gov.uk and further guidance on how they operate can be located on the Information Commissioners Office website www.ico.org.uk.

Section 31 and Section 38 are prejudiced based exemptions and this means it is the Public Authority's responsibility to evidence the harm. It is also a qualified exemption and therefore a Public Interest Test must be carried out.

Harm

The release of information under the Freedom of Information Act is a release into the public domain and not just to the individual requesting the information. Once information is disclosed by FOI there is no control or limits as to who or how the information is shared with other individuals, therefore a release under FOI is considered a disclosure to the world in general.

Disclosure of this information would identify the level of resources in these specific locations and may better inform those persons intent on committing criminal activity to maximise their chances to commit crime or launch attacks on police.

With this in mind there would need to be a considerable public interest before PSNI would consider the release of such information, as to do so would negatively affect the ability of PSNI to carry out its law enforcement role.

Public Interest Test

Factors Favouring Release – Section 31

Release of the requested information would lead to a better informed public and would show transparency and accountability on the part of PSNI. The public would be better informed with regard to PSNI capability and processes.

Factors Favouring Retention – Section 31

Disclosing this information could assist criminal elements to subvert police, compromising law enforcement tactics and hindering the prevention and detection of crime, impacting on police resources.

The release of information taken on its own or together with other information, either already available or the subject of further requests, could place police officers at risk of harm by attack as well as negatively affect the law enforcement capabilities of PSNI as it would enable criminal groups to better plan how to successfully carry out their activities.

This argument is further confirmed by the current threat level in Northern Ireland which is currently SEVERE. PSNI is aware of the mosaic and precedent effects of releasing information which may be of use to terrorists. A clear link exists between knowledge available to criminals and the way they operate, with the resultant impact on PSNI potentially giving a tactical advantage to criminals.

Factors Favouring Release - Section 38

Disclosure of this information would promote openness and transparency.

Factors Favouring Retention - Section 38

Releasing these specifications could place officers at risk, leaving them vulnerable to attack by criminals or terrorists.

Decision

The PSNI is tasked with the prevention and detection of crime and protecting the public. At this time of increased threat of terrorism, releasing detailed information with regard to police resources in specific locations into the public domain would not be in the public interest.

Whilst the PSNI would always wish to be transparent and accountable no release under FOI should be made where lives would be put at risk. Whilst the requested information may appear innocuous, we must take into account the wider implications of any release into the public domain including how the requested information may be combined with any previously released data or potential future FOI requests and what impact this 'mosaic' of information will have on the police service as a whole.

We have therefore determined that a full disclosure of information into the public domain would not be in the public interest.

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.