



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2012-00671

Keyword: Crime

Subject: ACPO Policy or Guidance concerning Forensic Exhibits

Request and Answer:

You will recall I made following request;
Previous Request F-2011-3102

1. PSNI's policy regarding forensic exhibits retention.
2. PSNI's policy regarding the destruction of forensic exhibits.
3. PSNI's policy regarding destruction of forensic exhibits, including full details of authorisation that is required at different and or all levels to destroy such forensic exhibits, documents.
4. PSNI's policy regarding the recording of destruction of forensic exhibits, records.

Question

Do ACPO, Association of Chief Police Officers of England, Wales and Northern Ireland not issue PSNI with such Policy or Guidance regards that concerning 1, 2, 3 and 4 above?

Answer

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested.

The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) did not issue the PSNI with such a Policy or Guidance in relation to forensic exhibits.

I note in your FOI request to ACPO and their response to you dated 9/12/2011, Ref 000083/11, it was outlined by them that they had recently completed work to revise ACPO tripartite agreement around the retention of forensic material however from their point of view, as it is currently intended for future publication, it is exempt information under section 22(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act.

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 Freedom of Information Team, 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 Freedom of Information, 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.