FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Please note the text of this request has been reproduced exactly as received.

FOI Reference number: 53/2026

Date: 18 November 2026

Request:

Time period and general scope from 1 January 2011 to 1 November 2024.

The request relates primarily to the period examined by the McCullough Review. Seeking the names of journalists only, insofar as they can lawfully be disclosed.

Question 1

Names already publicly disclosed. The full names of any journalists identified in records held by the Board as having been subject to surveillance or related investigative activity by the PSNI, where those names have already been publicly disclosed in official reports, published tribunal judgements or other public documents.

Answer:

The Board does not hold any records on journalists identified as having been subject to surveillance or related investigative activity by the PSNI. Where those names have already been publicly disclosed in official reports, published tribunal judgements or other public documents please see below links,

The McCullough Review | McCullough Review

BBC & Kearney and Moore v PSNI and Others - The Investigatory Powers Tribunal

Northern Ireland Policing Board
James House, Block D, 2-4 Cromac Avenue
Gasworks, Belfast BT7 2JA
028 9040 8500 www.nipolicingboard.org.uk

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

Below are links to questions asked by Members of the Board

Further review & report from Angus McCullough in light of IPT findings in Vincent Kearney case & issues raised in BBC spotlight

IPT hearing & surveillance/profiling of Vincent Kearney and his family, & if this happened in any other case

Wider independent review of surveillance activities given the Kearney IPT hearing, other cases & the involvement of other agencies

McCullough Review & action taken in terms of those affected

McCullough Review & CC position on misconduct proceedings

McCullough Review & actions of Professional Standards Department around 'Lawful Business Monitoring' & deletion of data that had been 'washed through'

Cellebrite

Media reports re surveillance of journalist Donal McIntyre

Potential surveillance of journalist

Angus McCullough review

The Investigatory Powers Tribunal

PSNI plans to publish Op YURTA report

Immigrant status

Surveillance of Lawyers and Journalists

Communication Data Authorisations

Surveillance of Journalists and Lawyers

Surveillance of Journalists and Lawyers

Investigatory Powers Tribunal

Ongoing IPT & Surveillance of Lawyers and Journalists

Historical Surveillance

PSNI decision not to release information requested by media following a high profile murder case in which a guilty verdict was reached.

Operation Yurta

Investigation into online threats made against journalists

PSNI engagement with National Union of Journalists
Operation Yurta

Litigation PSNI is defending or progressing

Would the Chief Constable apologise to the journalists and his opinion on an investigating officer discussing case with his MP.

Retention of material seized in the course of the Durham investigation / wider implications on retention given GDPR | Northern Ireland Policing Board

News releases

- **September 2026 Board Meeting in Public: Summary of Issues | Northern Ireland Policing Board**
- **Statement from the Policing Board on the Judgment by the Investigatory Powers Tribunal | Northern Ireland Policing Board**
- **Board Chair's statement on PSNI Report on Covert Powers in Relation to Journalists and Lawyers | Northern Ireland Policing Board**
    - **Judgement - McCaffrey and Birney v PSNI and others - The Investigatory Powers Tribunal**
- **Board Statement on issues discussed and agreed by the Board at its meeting | Northern Ireland Policing Board**

Question 2

Other disclosable names. Any additional names of journalists identified in existing Board records concerning PSNI surveillance or monitoring of journalists to the extent that disclosure is lawful.

Answer:

The Board does not hold information of any additional names of journalists identified concerning PSNI surveillance or monitoring of journalists.

Question 3

Records and correspondence. Copies of any existing lists, schedules, reports, correspondence or other records held by the Board that identify journalists affected by these activities, including records received from the PSNI or relating to the McCullough Review.

Answer:

The Board does not hold information of any existing lists, schedules, reports, correspondence or other records held by the Board that identify journalists affected by these activities, including records received from the PSNI or relating to the McCullough Review.

Question 4

Journalists contact details. Any existing records identifying journalists whose contact details were checked, cross-referenced or otherwise processed in connection with PSNI communication records, where the names can lawfully be disclosed. I understand that the McCullough Review examined the processing of journalists' contact details, including a list reported to contain more than 380 contacts.

Answer:

The Board does not hold any existing records identifying journalists whose contact details were checked, cross-referenced or otherwise processed in connection with PSNI communications records.

Question 5

Partial disclosure. If any requested documentation contains exempt information, please disclose the names and other information that can reasonably be separated from the exempt material, including through redaction.

Answer:

The Board does not hold any documentation of names and other information that can reasonably be separated from the exempt material, including through redaction.

If you have queries about this request or the decision please contact the Board quoting the reference number above. If you are unhappy with the service you have received and wish to make a complaint or request a review you should contact the Board's Chief Executive -

Via Email: foi@nipolicingboard.org.uk

Or in writing at the following address:

Northern Ireland Policing Board
James House
Block D
2 – 4 Cromac Avenue
The Gasworks
Belfast
BT7 2JA

You should contact the Board within 40 working days of this response.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commission's Office (ICO). Generally, the ICO cannot investigate or make a decision on a case unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Board. You should make complaints to the ICO within six weeks of receiving the outcome of an internal review.

The Information Commission's Office can be contacted at the following web link –

Contact us | ICO

or in writing at:

Information Commission's Office
4th Floor, No.3 Circle Square
5 Hawkshaw Street
Manchester
M1 7BL

Helpline number: 0303 123 1113

Please be advised that our replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ www.nipolicingboard.org.uk.

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