



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

FOI Reference number: 02/2017

Date: 20 January 2017

Request:

- 1) Does the Policing Board engage directly or indirectly with representatives of paramilitary groups? Note: not community activists, groups or others.
- 2) Does the Policing Board have existing protocols in place for such engagement?
- 3) Has the Policing Board changed its approach to how it engages with representatives of paramilitary groups?
- 4) Has the Board reviewed its protocols for engaging with representatives of paramilitary groups?

as of A8:

A8 - The Executive and the PSNI, in conjunction with the Policing Board, should review their protocols for engaging with representatives of paramilitary groups. This change in approach should also apply to other public and community bodies and public representatives. The Executive will propose to the Chief Constable and the Chair of the Policing Board that we commission an agreed independent expert - of suitable expertise and standing - to review current practice and legal requirements, as well as lessons from other contexts, and provide them with draft protocols for consideration. (Source: TACKLING PARAMILITARY ACTIVITY, CRIMINALITY AND ORGANISED CRIME EXECUTIVE ACTION PLAN)

Answer:

The Policing Board does not engage directly or indirectly with representatives of paramilitary groups and has no protocols for doing so. The Board has not changed this approach and has no plans to do. The Board will work in partnership with the PSNI and the Executive to consider how recommendation A8 will be progressed.

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 write to the Board's Chief Executive at the following address:

Northern Ireland Policing Board
Waterside Tower
31 Clarendon Road
Clarendon Dock
Belfast BT1 3BG

Email: foi@nipolicingboard.org.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner. Generally, the Information Commissioner's Office cannot investigate or make a decision on a case unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Board. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:-

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
SK9 5AF

Telephone: - 0303 1231114
Email: - ni@ico.org.uk

Please be advised that Policing Board 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.