



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

FOI Reference number: 18/2014

Date: 7 May 2014

Request:

A full copy of the public survey in relation to PCSPs which was carried out by the NI Policing Board in early 2014

Answer:

We are withholding information on the 2014 Omnibus Survey in accordance with the exemption under section 22 of the FOIA (Information intended for future publication).

The results of this survey are currently being quality assured and prepared for publication. They will be available on the Board's web site on Thursday 29 May 2014 at the following link - www.nipolicingboard.org.uk/index/publications/omnibus-surveys.htm .

The section 22 exemption is a qualified exemption and is subject to consideration of a public interest test. This means that a public authority must determine whether, on balance, it considers it to be in the wider public interest to maintain the exemption, or to release the requested information. We have carried out a public interest test, (attached) and we are satisfied that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

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:-

The Information Commissioner's Office – Northern Ireland
3rd Floor
12 Cromac Place
Gasworks
Ormeau Road
Belfast
BT7 2JB.

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

Please be advised that all Policing Board replies under Freedom of Information will 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.

Exemption at Section 22 (1) of the FOIA – Information Intended For Future Publication

PUBLIC INTEREST TEST CONSIDERATIONS

Information being Withheld – A full copy of the public survey in relation to PCSPs which was carried out by the NI Policing Board in early 2014

Arguments that weigh in favour of disclosure

Release of information from the public survey would promote transparency, accountability and participation.

Providing the requested information is in line with the spirit of openness and transparency enshrined within FOI legislation.

The information being sought is routinely published so will become public knowledge.

Arguments that weigh in favour of maintenance of the exemption

The information requested is currently being quality assured and prepared for publication by the Policing Board.

The Policing Board have in place plans to publish the information on Thursday 29 May 2014.

The 2014 Omnibus Survey, which includes the information requested, is classified as an Official Statistic. Release practices governing the publication of Official Statistics state that the Board should “*Ensure that no indication of the substance of a statistical report is made public, or given to the media or any other party not recorded as eligible for access before publication*”. Please refer to page 18 paragraph 8 in the following document: -

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/code-of-practice-for-official-statistics.pdf>

Decision

In all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.