



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

FOI Reference number: 21/2017

Date: 13 June 2017

Request: Dear Northern Ireland Policing Board,

Under the FOIA 2000, please provide a copy of any and all recorded information held by the Board about the work of the PSNI and Northern Ireland Co-operation Overseas (NI-CO) with the Sultanate of Oman since they began providing training/assistance to the Omani authorities. If that would exceed the cost limit, please limit your search to the period 2014-2017.

I expect your disclosure to include, but not be limited to, the visit of Oman's Inspector General Hassan Al Shereqi to Northern Ireland, which was reported around March 2015.

I expect your search to cover any recorded information pertaining to this subject in the broadest possible sense e.g. emails, minutes, diary entries, papers, OSJA assessments, IPAB referrals etc.

As required by the Information Commissioner, a search of backup servers should also be conducted.

Please confirm receipt immediately and provide a substantive response within 20 working days, i.e. by 13th June 2017.

Answer: Please find attached copies of the following documents:

1. Extracts from NI-CO Monthly Reports as they relate to the Sultanate of Oman.
2. Extract from a PSNI Evaluation Report considered by the Board's Resources Committee on 26 November 2015;
3. Extract from a PowerPoint Presentation delivered by PSNI to the Board Resources Committee on 26 November 2015;
4. Extract from the approved Minutes of the Board's Resources Committee held on 26 November 2015; and
5. Copy letter from the PSNI Deputy Chief Constable to the Chair of the Northern Ireland Policing Board dated 25 April 2017.

This is all the recorded information held by the Board about the work of the PSNI and Northern Ireland Co-operation Overseas (NI-CO) with the Sultanate of Oman.

The Board has no information relating to any visit that Oman's Inspector General Hassan Al Shereqi may have made to Northern Ireland, around March 2015.

Any redactions have been made in accordance with Section 40 (2) Third Party data under the FOI Act.

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.

Extracts from NI-CO Monthly Reports and PSNI Evaluation Record re: Oman.

To:



NIPB

NI-CO MONTHLY REPORT – OCTOBER 2014

Please find enclosed the monthly report summarising progress made on current NI-CO managed policy and justice projects overseas, plus an updated list of recently secured projects.

Oman Public Order (duration Apr 14 - Mar 15)

- Request submitted mid-April to PSNI to host a 1½ day visit to PSNI to provide Omani officials with an overview of public order training and equipment. Approval granted and visits were made to Garnerville and Steeple on 9th-10th June 2014.
- Request submitted late June to PSNI to host a study visit to provide an Oman Police and Military Delegation experience of a live public order operation such as a parade during the summer months. Approval granted. Visit completed successfully w/c 25th August 2014.
- Section 8 application submitted mid-August for PSNI inputs of a Public Order Trainer and Strategy Co-ordinator of Training to undertake a 3 day scoping visit to Oman – provisionally planned for w/c 22nd September 2014. Decision for approval could not be provided to meet the proposed dates – not approved. This request has been revised and Oman are now considering a possible Study visit to PSNI - proposal to be submitted requesting PSNI to host 2 Omani Police training division officers to jointly devise a Silver and Bronze command course for Omani Police to be delivered in NI early 2015. Proposed dates are early 2015. Due to budgetary constraints, PSNI unable to provide support.
- Oman have requested for PSNI to host and train 2 cohorts for 4 weeks comprising of 6 Omani Officers each in the areas of Silver and Bronze Command in Northern Ireland. Proposed dates, one in January and one in February 2015. Due to budgetary constraints, PSNI unable to provide support owing to duration of the visits.

To:



NIPB

NI-CO MONTHLY REPORT – DECEMBER 2014

Please find enclosed the monthly report summarising progress made on current NI-CO managed policy and justice projects overseas, plus an updated list of recently secured projects.

Oman Public Order (duration Apr 14 - Mar 15)

- Oman have requested for PSNI to host and train 2 cohorts for 3 weeks comprising of 6 Omani Officers each in the areas of Silver and Bronze Command in Northern Ireland. Proposed dates in March 2015 - Police College and PSNI HR to meet with NICO to discuss.

To:



NI-CO MONTHLY REPORT – JUNE 2015

Please find enclosed the monthly report summarising progress made on current NI-CO managed policy and justice projects overseas, plus an updated list of recently secured projects.

Oman Public Order (*duration Apr 14 - Mar 16*)

- Oman have requested for PSNI to host and train 12 Omani officers for 3 weeks in the areas of Silver and Bronze Command in Northern Ireland. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] carried out scoping visit to Oman first week of February 15. Pilot training course took place w/c 16th March for 3 weeks – successfully completed and plan in place for 4 further training courses before March 16 (3 X command and control 3 week courses and 1 X 1 week Gold Command course).

To:



NI-CO MONTHLY REPORT – JULY 2015

Please find enclosed the monthly report summarising progress made on current NI-CO managed policy and justice projects overseas, plus an updated list of recently secured projects.

Oman Public Order (*duration Apr 14 - Mar 16*)

- Oman have requested for PSNI to host and train 12 Omani officers for 3 weeks in the areas of Silver and Bronze Command in Northern Ireland. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] carried out scoping visit to Oman first week of February 15. Pilot training course took place w/c 16th March for 3 weeks – successfully completed and plan in place for 4 further training courses before March 16 (3 X command and control 3 week courses and 1 X 1 week Gold Command course).

NI-CO MONTHLY REPORT, MARCH 2016

Active PSNI requests Oman Public Order Training (Apr 15 – Mar 16)

- Final C & C course took place 13 – 31/3/16. Evaluation report forwarded to PSNI.
- Request submitted to PSNI for a further 2 delegates to attend part of the course to quality assure the training (2 Majors from Training College attending). Approval granted and additional delegates attended at end of March (24 – 28/3/16).
- Request sent to PSNI for follow up visit to Oman by PSNI officers to quality assure previous courses. Approval granted and visit took place from 27th Feb – 4th March. Report required from PSNI.

- Request submitted to PSNI for a senior command 'embedding visit' to observe planning and delivery of Easter parades. Approval granted and visit took place from 24th – 28th March. Evaluation report pending.
- Potential visit to Oman by DCC, dates TBC September/October 2016.
- Currently in discussions with FCO re a potential extension of the project in F/Y 2016/17 on a slightly reduced scale.

NI-CO MONTHLY REPORT, MAY 2016

Active PSNI requests Oman Public Order Training (Apr 15 – Mar 16)

- Request sent to PSNI for follow up visit to Oman by PSNI officers to quality assure previous courses. Approval granted and visit took place from 27th Feb – 4th March. Report required from PSNI.
- Request submitted to PSNI for a senior command 'embedding visit' to observe planning and delivery of Easter parades. Approval granted and visit took place from 24th – 28th March. Evaluation report pending.
- Potential visit to Oman by DCC, dates TBC October/November 2016.
- Currently in discussions with FCO and PSNI re an extension of the project in F/Y 2016/17 on a slightly reduced scale.

Extract from PSNI document which was considered by the Board's Resources Committee on 26 November 2015

Evaluation Report on Assistance to External Agencies and International Study Visits

This evaluation report covers the period **1 January 2015 – 31 October 2015**.

OMAN

British Ambassador has written to PSNI requesting assistance to provide policing advice and guidance to Omani policing service. Agreement was given in late 2014 by DCC Harris for PSNI to further investigate the development of this relationship. A scoping visit was carried out in February 2015 by two officers from the PSNI training college. This was based on an invitation accepted from British Embassy in Oman to PSNI to visit and assess collaborative opportunities.

Collaborative opportunities have been assessed and the development of a series of Command and Control training courses has been developed. Deliveries of these are underway in Northern Ireland. This work is delivered in conjunction with planned PSNI training and is invoiced to the British Embassy in Oman at full cost recovery (including generated income).

PSNI officers and staff involved: Training College and International Programmes Office.

Feedback on the courses:

The main objective from the Omani Police Service is to learn how to deal with protesters and to be familiar with public order policing and to access the most recent tactics, techniques and different styles used in public order policing.

- To understand the context of policing in NI
- To observe how public order policing functions in the NI context
- To discuss the most effective operational procedures in Public Order policing drawing on both NI and Oman experiences
- To observe and discuss any new initiatives being developed to enhance Public Order policing.

The open discussion and learning about the gradual mechanism in policing protests and how to communicate with protesters. Moreover, the flexibility of the highly skilled trainers and lecturers who are directly involved in developing and carrying out Public Order initiatives was the most valuable aspect.

The course objectives were achieved through discussions, presentations, practical exercises and watching videos specifically addressing one or more of the stated objectives. The officers have learned from the experience of the PSNI dealing with public order policing and compared this with the Public Order Policing approach in Oman.

Our projects - International

- Training support and development;

- Oman (in Northern Ireland)

[REDACTED]

- Incoming study visits, for example;

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2015 AT 9.30 AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

- Mr Gerry Kelly (Chairperson)
- (1) Mrs Wendy Osborne (Vice-Chairperson)
Ms Deirdre Blakely
Ms Roisin McGlone
- (2) Mr Robin Newton
Dr Paul Nolan
Mr Pat Sheehan
- (3) Ms Deborah Watters (Vice-Chairperson of Board)

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

- (4) Mr Drew Harris, Deputy Chief Constable
- (5) Mr Mark Hamilton, ACC Human Resources Services
- (6) Mr Chris Noble, T/ACC Service Improvement Department
- (5) Superintendent David Brady
- (7) Mr David Best, Director of Finance & Support Services
Mr Mark McNaughten, Head of Finance
- (7) One PSNI Official
- (4) One PSNI Official

NI-CO

- (6) Mr Graeme McCammon, Chief Executive
Ms Grainne Quinn, Projects Director

- (4)
- (4)

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mr Barney McGahan, Interim Chief Executive
- (8) Mrs Siobhan Fisher, T/Director of Partnership
- (9) Mrs Amanda Stewart, Director of Policy
Mr David Wilson, Director of Support Services
4 Board Officials

- (1) Item number 2 to close
- (2) Part item number 8.8, & item numbers 10 & 11
- (3) Item numbers 1 – 8.5, 8.7, 8.9, 9 & 13
- (4) Item number 8.9
- (5) Item number 8.6
- (6) Item numbers 8.8
- (7) Item numbers 8.1 – 8.3

(8) Item numbers 8.4, 8.5 & 8.7

(9) Item numbers 1 – 7, 8.4 & 8.5

8.9 PSNI Secondments

The Committee considered a paper which provided Members with information on the work of NI – CO and the secondment procedure for PSNI.

The Chairperson welcomed the Deputy Chief Constable, his colleague, Mr Graeme McCammon and Ms Grainne Quinn to the meeting.

The Deputy Chief Constable gave a presentation to the Committee on the PSNI International Programmes. A copy of the presentation is attached at Appendix A.

Mr Graeme McCammon gave a presentation to the Committee on of the work of NI-CO. A copy of the presentation is attached at Appendix B.

Members discussed a number of issues with the representatives from PSNI and NI-CO including:-

- The Team within PSNI who dealt with International Programmes.
 - Advice and guidance provided to Omani Policing Service by PSNI.
 - Working relationships between PSNI and NI-CO.
 - NICO being a self-financing Project at zero cost.
 - Risks to PSNI in providing training to Countries with allegations of human rights abuse.
 - Being pro-active in the training which PSNI provide to other Police Forces.
 - A recent request for the secondment of a PSNI Officer to Bahrain.
- The criteria used by PSNI for assessing requests for assistance.

The Deputy Chief Constable undertook to share this criteria with the Board.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives from PSNI and NI-CO for attending the meeting and suggested that further discussion should take place at a future meeting.



**DREW HARRIS OBE
DEPUTY CHIEF CONSTABLE**

Our Ref: Com Sec 17\5061

25 April 2017

Dear Chair

PSNI SUPPORT TO THE ROYAL OMANI POLICE

I wanted to advise you that a further request has been received from the Royal Omani Police as part of the ongoing support from PSNI, requested by the British Embassy.

On 6 and 7 May 2017 Assistant Chief Constable Barbara Gray, Superintendent Muir Clarke and [REDACTED] will travel to Oman to take part in a Strategic Public Order event, sharing their experience in relation to delivering successful policing operations.

The visit will last three days (excluding travel) and will be fully cost recovered.

If you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]
J A HARRIS
Deputy Chief Constable

Anne Connolly
Chair
Northern Ireland Policing Board
Waterside Tower
31 Clarendon Road
Clarendon Dock
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BT1 3BG

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