



Policy Legacy FOI Team
Headquarters 38 (Irish) Brigade
British Forces Post Office 801

E-Mail: 38X-PolicyLegacy-FOI-Mailbox@mod.gov.uk



Reference: FOI: 2019/12962

Date: 12 December 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION – INFORMATION RELATING TO LOCATIONS AND TYPES OF INFRASTRUCTURE SURROUNDING BELFAST CITY CENTRE FROM 1970 - 1990

Thank you for your e-mail dated 15 November, I can confirm that your request has been considered under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI (A)), and the process is now complete.

You asked for the following:

“I am an independent researcher investigating the security cordon in place around Belfast city centre during the period of “The Troubles”. This work is part of a wider project currently underway, led by Dr. Kate Catterall (University of Texas) which aims to mark the 50th anniversary of the erection of these barriers via a performance-based event and a legacy website containing interactive mapping. My role supporting the mapping element of this project requires identifying specific locations and types of security infrastructure, and times when these were in place. I would like to request any information available relative to what type of infrastructure (barriers, turnstiles (sic), bollards, etc), in which locations and during which years these were in use that you may have available in your archive.”

Whilst we may have some information it has been estimated that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit and therefore under the terms of Section 12(2) of the FOI(A), we are not obliged to comply. The appropriate limit is specified in regulations and for central government this is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending three and a half working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting it. Thousands of records would need to be reviewed therefore we are unable to quantify how long it would take to process.

Under Section 16 of the FOI(A) (Duty to provide advice and assistance), I can advise that the NIO may hold information that could be of relevance to your request. To submit a FOI request to the NIO you should forward your request to their FOI Team:

By post: - Freedom of Information Team, Northern Ireland Office, Stormont House, Stormont Estate BT4 3SH.

By E-mail - foi@nio.gov.uk www.gov.uk

I can advise that images of Belfast City Centre during the “troubles” can be viewed at the following link: <https://www.belfastlive.co.uk/news/history/gallery/belfast-security-gallery-12636958>.

Additionally, if you provide us with the details of a particular incident or location that you may be interested in, we may be able to assist. If you would like us to carry out a further search, please submit a new request detailing what it is that you require.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the FOI(A). Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

38 (Irish) Brigade FOI Team