



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2008-04509

Keyword: Finance

Subject: PSNI BONUSES FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS

Request:

Question 1 - How much money has the PSNI paid out in bonuses to its officers in each of the last three years (either financial or calendar is acceptable)

Question 2 - A breakdown of the above per rank of officer (i.e. how much for superintendents, inspectors etc)

Question 3 - An inventory of all instances (if any) where the PSNI paid a bonus to an officer in each of the three years (either financial or calendar is acceptable), including the date, the reason for, and the value of each bonus, as well as the rank of the officer concerned.

Answer:

Answer 1 - Prior to Jan 2007, any bonuses PSNI paid to its officers were paid along with all other allowances and our recording systems do not enable us to extract bonuses from totals paid. Central Pay branch have advised they are unable to provide any information before Jan 2007.

Bonuses paid under the Police Bonus scheme:

Jan 07 to Dec 07 = £54,274.82

Jan 08 to Sep 08 = £13,925.00

Bonuses paid to Chief Officers:

Jan 07 to Dec 07 = £31,184.45

Jan 08 to Sep 08 = £41,860.93

Answer 2 - The reporting system used within Finance Branch does not specify rank to the level of Superintendents and Inspectors, we can only differentiate between Chief Officers (Chief Constable, Deputy Constable, Assistant Chief Constables, Director of Human Resources, Director of Finance and Support Services, Head of Media and Public Relations and Head of Legal Services) and all other officers collectively as provided in the answer to question 1 above.

Answer 3 - There is no standard way of collating this data across the 8 districts. Each of the 8 District Command Units within the Police Service of Northern Ireland would have to carry out a manual search of each officer's personal file in order to try and ascertain this information. These files will contain many documents relating to each individual person and will have to be viewed from start to finish to extract the information required to answer your question.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland have approximately 8900 officers, to search each of these file at 10 minutes per file would equate to 1480 hours approximately.

The cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the "appropriate limit" as stated in the Freedom of Information Regulations 2004, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland have also considered whether we can be of any assistance in terms of helping you refine your request to bring it under the cost limit however the nature and structure of the information unfortunately makes this impossible.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice in relation to question 3, and the request has therefore been closed.

If you have any queries regarding your request or this decision please do not hesitate to contact me on 028 9070 0164. When contacting the Freedom of Information Team, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this email.

If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible, or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter. In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Head of Freedom of Information, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing foi@psni.pnn.police.uk.

If following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision maker, you were to remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request you may make a complaint, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the PSNI has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. You can write to the Information Commissioner at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out, however the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Please be advised that all PSNI replies under Freedom of Information will be released simultaneously into the public domain via our website @ www.psnipolice.uk.

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