



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2008-04284

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: INJURED POLICE OFFICERS - 1/4/07 - 31/3/08

Request:

Details of the number of police officers seriously injured in the line of duty in the year 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. Serious Injury is defined as an injury that has been referred to the Health and Safety Executive.

Question 1 - the number of officers injured.

Question 2 - the type of injury.

Question 3 - how it was caused.

Question 4 - whether hospital treatment was required.

Question 5 - how long the officer spent off work.

Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full, as no reply was received from our clarification request on October 6, 2008. I hope this is of some assistance.

Answer 1 - The total number of officers injured and recorded as injury on duty for the Police Service of Northern Ireland is 278 officers.

Answer 2 - Please see figures below:

Abrasion - 7
Bite from person or animal - 2
Bruise - 97
Fracture/Dislocation - 37
Crush/Internal Injury - 3
Laceration - 8
Other - 4
Pain (including headache) - 201
Puncture/Cuts - 35
Respiratory Disorder - 2
Strain/Sprain - 91
Stress - 25
Swelling - 35

Whiplash - 43

Total – 590. The higher total of injuries compared with the number of officers injured, reflects that officers often record more than one injury from a single incident.

Answer 3 - Please refer to the figures below:

Injured by an animal/insect - 1
Assault - 93
Ergodynamics - 2
Fall from height - 4
Lifting/handling injury (people) - 8
Injured while handling, lifting or carrying - 15
Contact with needle or other sharps - 2
Other - 7
Road Traffic Conclusion - 64
Slip, trip or fall on same level or stairs - 34
Struck by object - 14
Stress - 25
Struck against something (e.g. furniture/fittings) - 5
Struck by moving vehicle - 1
Exposed to, or in contact with, a harmful agent - 3

Total – 278

Answer 4 - 98 officers were referred to Accident & Emergency. (Health and Safety do not capture other hospital treatment)

Answer 5 - A total of 10,930 days.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the 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.psni.police.uk.

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