Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Request Number: F-2008-05471

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: REMOVAL OF PERSONAL PROTECTION WEAPON - POLICE

Request:

How many police officers on sick leave for anxiety/depression or mental health issues had their personal protection weapons removed from their possession?

Answer:

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 does not hold the information requested in an easily retrievable format. To locate, retrieve and present the information requested would require each District Command Unit throughout Northern Ireland to carry out a time consuming manual search of each officers records relating to sick leave. For example, one DCU has 16 stations within it. Each of the stations would require a member of staff to examine each officers personnel file for the information, then trawl through further records to provide the information relating to how many police officers on sick leave for anxiety/depression or mental health issues who have had their personal protection weapons removed from their possession.

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

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.

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 PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ http://www.psni.police.uk/

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