



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2008-03969

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: DOES THE POLICE FORCE HAVE A BAND

Request:

Does the police force have a band, and if so, how many retired police officers, current officers and civilian staff are a part of it, etc?

- Q1. Does the police force have a band, and if so, how many retired police officers, current officers and civilian staff are a part of it?**
- Q2. How often do they rehearse and for how long?**
- Q3. How many musical instruments are owned by the police force and what are they?**
- Q4. How much has the police force spent on musical instruments since January 1 2000 and how much has been spent on uniform for band members?**
- Q5. How much has been paid to staff in overtime payments / payments for performing to band members since January 1 2000?**
- Q6. How many times have the band performed officially since January 2000?**

Answer:

Answer.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) does not have a police band. The Piping and Drumming Society of the Royal Ulster Constabulary was formed in 1978, changing to the PSNI from 2002. This Society since 2004 has provided an unofficial 'PSNI' Pipe Band comprising of 22 volunteers who are either serving or retired officers and guest musicians. They are not funded by public monies but by voluntary donations and grants and are independent from the PSNI. Each year the pipe band is invited by the PSNI to assist with the 10 Graduation Ceremonies as well as RUC Athletic Association events, commensurate with their normal duties.

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, and 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, and 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.