



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2008-04813

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: HEARING LOSS BY FORMER RUC OFFICERS

Request:

Under the Freedom of Information Act I am seeking information on the PSNI's liability in regard to hearing loss by former RUC officers. I am particularly interested in the number of claims, the amounts paid out so far in settlements, awards and legal fees, any estimates of future liability, and any correspondence you may hold.

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.

The number of hearing loss claims registered with the Police Service of Northern Ireland's Legal Services is currently 1751 cases; we have dealt with 515 cases, leaving 1236 cases currently outstanding.

The total amount paid in damages is as follows £11,348,466

Please note these figures above are accurate as of 30/09/08

It is not possible to predict the number of hearing loss claims likely to be submitted in the future. This in turn makes it impossible to predict figures on the provision needed to meet future compensation settlements."

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 @ <http://www.psni.police.uk>

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