



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2008-04520

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION TEAM

Request:

I would like information that details the cost to your department / authority in complying with the Freedom of Information Act in the **2007/8** financial year. I would like information on:

Question 1 - The number of staff employed to handle requests made under the Freedom of Information Act. Please take this to cover any staff working in any central FOI team and any caseworkers in your departments or units. An overall figure will suffice, preferably expressed in terms of those who undertake FOI work full time, and those who do FOI work alongside other duties.

Question 2 - The overall salary of all the staff covered in my first question. If this is not achievable within the cost limit of the act, please provide me with the overall salary of those who work on FOI requests as part of their main job. Please take this to include staff at all grades and ranks, but not include those who are involved solely in any approval or signing-off capacity.

Question 3 - The cost to your department / authority in attending any Information Tribunals in the 2007/8 financial year. Please also provide similar figures for the 05/06 and 06/07 financial years.

Question 4 - Could you please also provide the following figures, per calendar year, since 1st January 2005 (please provide 2008 figures as of the 1st August):

- A) Total number of FOIA requests made
- B) Total number of reviews / complaints made on FOIA responses
- C) Total number of complaints made to the Information Commissioner on your requests
- D) Total number of Information Tribunal hearings attended in defence of a FOIA response

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.

Answer 1 - 6 members of staff are employed within the central FOI team and undertake FOI work full-time, the Police Service of Northern Ireland also have 3 satellite groups Crime Department, Professional Standards Department, (both have 2 members of staff) and the Historical Enquires Team (1 member of staff), all satellite groups undertake FOI work

alongside other duties.

A total of 11 members of Staff

Answer 2 - The Overall Annual Salary for members of staff that undertake FOI work both full-time and part-time is approximately £320,000.00

Answer 3 - The Police Service of Northern Ireland have not attended any Information Tribunals in the 2007/8 financial year, therefore the answer is Nil.

Answer 4A.

2005 - 540
2006 - 642
2007 - 759
2008 - 616 to date

Answer 4B.

2005 - 39
2006 - 32
2007 - 31
2008 - 20 to date

Answer 4C.

2005 - 6
2006 - 4
2007 - 4
2008 - 3 to date

Answer 4D.

2005 - 0
2006 - 0
2007 - 0
2008 - 0

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.