



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-02402

Keyword: Finance

Subject: EXPENSES - OFFICERS / DETECTIVES / MANAGEMENT

Request and Answer:

Question 1

How much was paid out for officers'/detectives./management expenses in the past year?

Answer

Mileage

These figures are based on all mileage in claims settled over the period 01.04.2008-31.03.2009, so late claims, i.e. for period before 01.04.2008, may also be included:-

| | |
|------------|---------------|
| Detectives | £1,044,364.00 |
| Officers | £2,285,043.00 |

Expenses

These figures were obtained from the individual expense types for Refreshment Non-Taxable and Refreshment Taxable:-

| | | |
|------------|-------------------------|------------|
| Detectives | Refreshment Taxable | £29,526.22 |
| | Refreshment Non Taxable | £8,234.44 |
| Officers | Refreshment Taxable | £45,829.13 |
| | Refreshment Non taxable | £13,569.12 |

All above extracted were active in those roles as at **28.08.2009**, therefore it should be noted that the mileage figures may not have been incurred in their role as of today. Also there is no distinction in the mileage claimed as a result of specific duties or training.

The information you have requested with regards to Managements expenses in the past year exempt under:

S21 - Information Reasonably Accessible by Other Means

The information you have requested with regards to Managements expenses in the past year is accessible from the following website.

http://www.psnl.police.uk/index/about-us/publications/publications-by-category/what_we_spend_and_how_we_spend_it/chief-officers-expenses.htm

Question 2

Can I have a breakdown of what the expenses were paid out for (food, mileage, phone bills etc) in the past year?

Answer

The cost of retrieving and summarising the information requested in question 2, 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(18hrs). In order to obtain the information in question 2 would take in excess of 72hrs. To retrieve and breakdown what expenses were paid out for, would require significant development and would take technical staff between 72 and 120hrs to complete, allied to this any detail below the Refreshment type is recorded in freetext so if the data could be extracted within cost it would still require a substantial piece of work for someone to go through the entries and pick up detail like food etc from the text which would far exceed the current limit as set by the Secretary of State.

The PSNI have also considered whether we can be of any assistance in terms of helping you refine this part of 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 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 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.