



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-02398

Keyword: Finance

Subject: CHIEF CONSTABLE - SIR HUGH ORDE - FINANCE

Request and Answer:

Question 1

How much of a pension will Hugh Orde get when he steps down from his post?

Answer

I have today decided to fully exempt records in answer to question 1 pursuant to the provisions of Section 40 (2) of the Act.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states that fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

To answer your request would require me to release personal details about an individual other than the applicant. Disclosure of the Chief Constable's pension details would be unfair as there is a legitimate expectation by Sir Hugh Orde that this will remain confidential. This would be a breach of the Data Protection Act and is catered for within Freedom of Information by the exemptions under Section 40 (2) (a) and (b) by virtue of Section 40 (3) (a) (i).

Section 40 (2) is a Classed-based exemption, therefore it is not necessary to evidence the harm caused by disclosure. The data protection rights of a third party would be breached by disclosure, therefore Section 40 (2) is an Absolute exemption and a Public Interest Test is not necessary. This is so because personal data is governed by other law (The Data Protection Act 1998).

All requests made under the FOIA are applicant blind. A request must be treated as such and a public authority will always view any disclosure as into the public domain. Thus the PSNI must be satisfied that any release of information will be potentially available to the general public. It is therefore on this basis that the following is very relevant.

The first element of this exemption is engaged if the information requested constitutes personal data and is made by the data subject. The information will be covered by section 40(1) and the request will be dealt with under section 7 of the Data Protection Act 1998, rights of access.

The second element of this exemption is engaged if the personal data is about someone other than the applicant. Where someone makes an application for information other than the data subject, disclosure of that information will often constitute a breach of the Data Protection Act covered by section 40(2).

Personal Data is regulated under the principles of the Data Protection Act 1998 and when information contains personal data about a third party it can only be refused if disclosure would breach any of the data protection principles.

As previously highlighted, any disclosure under FOIA is a public disclosure and release of the personal data of an individual relating to whether or not a business interest was granted or rejected would breach principles 1 & 2 of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Principle (1), that personal data is processed lawfully and fairly. Personal data imparted and recorded for information purposes will be confidential and any public disclosure would be unlawful if there would be a breach of that law of confidentiality. Persons who give their data to the PSNI for the purpose of informing and maintaining their personal records have the expectation that it will be treated fairly and it would be unfair to an individual concerned to disclose his/her personal data into the public domain.

Principle (2), that personal data is processed for a specific purpose and not further processed in any manner incompatible with that purpose. Data in this case was gathered and processed for a staff administration purpose. Once personal data has been publicly disclosed, it will in most cases be used for a purpose other than it was initially obtained. Public disclosure would cause unnecessary distress or damage to the persons involved, they would not have an expectation their personal data will be disclosed to others or possibly used for another purpose.

Under our Section 16 duty to assist I have provided links to the salary earned by the Chief Constable of PSNI as well as detail of the Police Pension (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2009, Part 3 Pensionable Pay and Contributions and Part 4 Pension Awards, on the Police Negotiating Board website below:

<http://www.police-information.co.uk/policepay.htm>

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/sr/sr2009/nisr_20090079_en_1

Question 2

Will he get a performance-related or other bonus when he leaves?

Answer

The award of bonus payments are not matters for the Police Service of Northern Ireland and as such we are not in a position to answer this question. Any such award is a decision for the Northern Ireland Policing Board as they are responsible for conducting Sir Hugh Orde's performance review. I would therefore suggest that they are the authority best placed to provide an answer to this question. Please advise if you wish us to transfer this question to the Northern Ireland Policing Board on your behalf or if you would prefer to contact them directly.

Question 3

Has Hugh Orde declared any outside job interests while serving as head of the PSNI such as speaking engagements?

Answer

Sir Hugh Orde has not declared any outside job interests. Any speaking engagements he has carried out are solely in his official capacity as Chief Constable.

Question 4

If he has registered this, how much did he obtain for speaking engagements/outside consultancies in his career?

Answer

Please refer to the previous response.

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 @ www.psnipolice.uk

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