



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-03124
Keyword: Human Resources
Subject: DISMISSAL OF OFFICERS

Request and Answer:

Question 1

How many probationer Police Constables have been dismissed in accordance with the Well Conducted Procedure for each calendar year since the inception of the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

Question 2

Of the Police Officers dismissed under the above Procedure please confirm with reference to the calendar year, the number of Constables:-

- (i) from a Protestant background
- (ii) from a Catholic background.
- (iii) from neither a Protestant or Catholic background.

Answer

The cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the "appropriate limit" as stated in the Freedom of Information (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland have also considered whether we can be of any assistance in terms of helping you refine your request to bring it under the cost limit however the nature and structure of the information unfortunately makes this impossible.

The answer to Question 1 is not held centrally by the PSNI. In order to retrieve this information it would be necessary for each district to carry out a manual trawl of the personal files of all leavers to establish the reason for leaving/dismissal. It has been estimated that this exercise alone would take in excess of 49 hours.

Without the information required by Question 1, it has not been possible to address Question 2.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice, and the request has therefore been closed.

If you have any queries regarding your request or this 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 letter.

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.psni.police.uk

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