



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2009-02410  
**Keyword:** Human Resources  
**Subject:** EARLY RETIREMENT

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1a

How many claims from PSNI officers are there currently being processed for:  
Early retirement due to ill health - and how much will the pay-outs be for those officers?

#### Answer

16 officers are currently seeking early retirement due to ill health.

The Northern Ireland Policing Board process and decide Medical Retirements for PSNI officers. PSNI do not control or have any responsibility for ill health retirement. No costs are known until NIPB approve the medical retirement. NIPB would be best placed to answer the question in relation to pay-outs for these officers.  
A link to contact NIPB has been provided below:

[foi@nipolicingboard.org.uk](mailto:foi@nipolicingboard.org.uk)

#### Question 1b

Trauma or injury in the line of duty - and details on what these traumas/injuries were?

#### Answer

Our compensation database does not have separate categories for police and support staff. All claims for personal injury are registered as a PI claim.

There are currently 9,315 active claims

I can however advise that of the 9,313 claims - 5,585 are in respect of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and 2,229 in respect of Hearing Loss. Of the remaining 1,501 claims injuries would include the following:-

RTC injuries  
slip, trips & falls  
stress  
injury sustained during training  
injury sustained when lifting objects

#### Question 3a

How many instances have there been in the past three years of officers discharging their weapons?

#### Answer

Please see attached document.

#### Question 2

How much was spent in the past three years on counselling PSNI officers for trauma etc?

**Question 3b**

Of officers discharging their weapons, how much was spent on their counselling?

**Question 4**

How much has the PSNI spent in the past 3 years bringing in trained counsellors for officers, or if the counselling is internal, how many hours were spent with officers in the past year on counselling?

**Answer**

The cost of complying with your request for information required to answer questions 2, 3b and 4, 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. In order to retrieve this information we would have to check the medical records of at least 1000 officers to check what the background to their attendance with our in house counsellors was for both all IOD causes and trauma related. To estimate at approximately 10 minutes per record, this would take in excess of 160 hours. Staff would have to redirect from current work to complete this enormous task and to do this would impact on the PSNI's ability to deliver required counselling appointments during that time. The questions relate to counselling and this only forms a very small part of the trauma management services provided.

I have considered whether I can be of any assistance in terms of helping you refine your request to bring it under the cost limit, however, due to the structure and nature of the information required makes this extremely difficult.

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](mailto: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](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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

**F-2009-02410**

**TABLE 1**

**DISCHARGE OF POLICE ISSUE FIREARMS BY PSNI OFFICERS FROM  
1.4.06 TO 31.3.09**

<b>NUMBER OF INCIDENTS OF NEGLIGENT DISCHARGE OF FIREARM</b>	<b>NUMBER OF INCIDENTS OF DISCHARGE OF FIREARM TO HUMANELY DESTROY ANIMAL</b>	<b>NUMBER OF OTHER INCIDENTS* OF DISCHARGE OF FIREARM</b>
21	11	9

\* Other incidents relate to incidents of discharge of firearms where officers believed lives were in danger.

The figures refer to the number of incidents of the discharge of firearms and not to the number of officers involved or rounds discharged.

All the negligent discharges occurred in non public areas.

The figures provided do not include the discharge of baton rounds.

It should be noted that incidents of discharge of firearms by police involving members of the public are investigated by the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland. The above statistics do not include incidents investigated by the Ombudsman which have not been notified to Professional Standards Department.

Officers within the Police Service of Northern Ireland are routinely armed. Consequently the statistics provided cannot be compared to any other UK Police Service.

Table I has been prepared from records held by the Professional Standards Department of the Police Service of Northern Ireland.