



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-00368

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: EXCHANGES WITH OTHER FORCES

Request and Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested and the answers provided by our Human Resources Department are as follows.

Question 1

How many officers are exchanging with the Scottish Constabulary?

Answer

There is no personnel exchange programme with any other UK police service.

Question 2

How many officers are exchanging with the Garda?

Answer

33 PSNI officers have gone on an exchange to An Garda Síochána (AGS).

Question 3

Do Garda officers have to acknowledge the anthem of the Irish Republic when serving in that jurisdiction?

Answer

The Police Service of Northern Ireland hold no information with regard to this question, as we are unable to answer for another police service.

Question 4

Do PSNI officers have to acknowledge the Anthem of the Irish Republic when serving in that jurisdiction?

Answer

The Police Service of Northern Ireland hold no information with regard to this question as this information is not assessed or required under intergovernmental agreement as part of the exchange programme.

Question 5

What is the cost incurred in these exchanges?

Answer

A maximum daily rate of 180 Euro per day inclusive of accommodation and meals can be claimed for officers up to the rank of Chief Inspector. The cost incurred to date in the 08/09 financial year has been £9000.

Question 6

How many officers are involved in these exchanges?

Answer

33 PSNI officers have gone on an exchange to AGS.

Question 7

In the light of the murders of Supt Bob Buchanan and Chief Supt Harry Breen what confidence can the public have that these exchanges are not endangering the NI public and serving PSNI officers and also retired RUC officers?

Answer

Question 7 is seeking a member of the Service to express an opinion regarding what confidence can the public have that these exchanges are not endangering the NI public and serving PSNI officers and also retired RUC officers, and as such this is not a valid request for recorded information held by the Police Service of Northern Ireland. I can however advise that all exchanges are based upon a risk assessment.

Question 8

What is the religion of the PSNI officers involved in this exchange programme?

Answer

HR Planning hold no information with regard to this question as this information is not assessed or required under intergovernmental agreement as part of the exchange programme.

I can, however, advise you, that if this information were held it would be reasonably expected to be exempted under Section 40(5) - Personal Data of the Freedom of Information Act.

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 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.