



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-00520

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: OFFICERS ACTING UP

Request and Answer:

Question

Please could you supply the following information, How many Catholic Officers have been provided with "Acting Up" opportunity since 2006 in Chief Inspector rank, Superintendent rank and Chief superintendent Rank/roles?

Answer

The cost of complying with your request for information 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. To locate and retrieve the information requested would require each District Command Unit (DCU) to manually trawl records to identify which officer had acted up in the ranks indicated in the request. Some DCUs would have placed 2006/7 records in storage and would require 16 hours alone to locate the records. These details would then have to be forwarded to the PSNI's Equality and Diversity Unit to establish each officer's community background. The time estimated for the DCUs to carryout a manual trawl would take in excess of 130 hours which far exceeds the appropriate limit set by the Secretary of State of 18 hours.

The PSNI has also considered if we can be of any assistance in refining your request to bring it within the appropriate fees level. It may be possible to provide the information by asking for those officers in receipt of Acting -Up Allowance and by reducing the time period or number of ranks requested. This however would exclude any officer who was acting -up but was not in receipt of the allowance.

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 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.