



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-02073

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: PATTEN VOLUNTARY SEVERANCE SCHEME / INJURY ON DUTY

Request and Answer:

Question 1.

From the commencement of the "Patten" Voluntary Severance Scheme how many officers who retired under this scheme went on to make, and receive, a retrospective Injury on Duty award?

Answer

The Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold any information with regard to Injury on Duty (IOD) awards made post retirement. Please be advised that enquiries have been made and as the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB) are the authority for awarding IOD's they may be best placed to provide the information you require. For your information please find attached website link to www.nipolicingboard.org.uk

Question 2.

From the commencement of the "Patten" Voluntary Severance Scheme how many officers who applied for, and were accepted for voluntary retirement (Patten), became too ill and had to retire on an Injury on Duty pension, and how did this affect their original acceptance to receive a "Patten" VSS package?

Answer

Records of officers leaving the service have only been included on severance databases since 1 April 2004. To date the number of officers who have applied and been accepted for severance and have subsequently been medically discharged before availing of severance is nil.

To locate, retrieve and summarise the records of officers leaving the service for medical reasons between 1 January 2001 and 31 March 2004 would take in excess of the appropriate limit as outlined in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. Unfortunately we do not capture this information on our database and therefore to provide an accurate answer, a manual check and cross referencing of 1830 files would have to be undertaken by our Severance Unit. Allowing 30 minutes per file it has been estimated that it would take approximately 915 hrs therefore exceeding the "appropriate limit" of 18hrs.

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

For your information I have been advised that an officer who is medically discharged **cannot** also avail of severance. However, where an officer has retired through severance an IOD may subsequently be awarded by the NIPB.

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 @ <http://www.psni.police.uk>

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