



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-01695

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: POLICE / CIVILIAN RESOURCING

Request and Answer:

I am writing to confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information.

I have today decided to:

- disclose records in answer to questions numbered 3, 4 and 5 in full; and
- fully exempt records in answer to questions numbered 1 and 2 pursuant to the provisions of section 21 of the Act.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states that fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

Question 1

What is the current number of officers employed by the PSNI?

Answer

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 it has been decided to refuse access to the information you have requested. Section 21 of the Act provides that information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means is exempt information.

The information you have requested is available from the Police Service of Northern Ireland's Publication Scheme. To access our Publication Scheme please visit our website at http://www.psnipolice.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics/updates_workforce_composition_figures.htm

Question 2

What is the current number of civilians employed for posts within the PSNI?

Answer

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 it has been decided to refuse access to the information you have requested. Section 21 of the Act provides that information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means is exempt information.

The information you have requested is available from the Police Service of Northern Ireland's Publication Scheme. To access our Publication Scheme please visit our website at http://www.psnipolice.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics/updates_workforce_composition_figures.htm

Question 3

What is the number of agency staff excluding cleaning & catering staff employed by the PSNI?

Answer

The number of agency staff excluding cleaning & catering staff employed by the PSNI is **574**.

Question 4

What is the number of officers serving in a shift orientated role within the PSNI (response policing)?

Answer

The number of officers serving in a shift orientated role within the PSNI is **2956**. This figure has been obtained centrally and includes Response Officers, Neighbourhood Policing Teams, Communications Officers and Tactical Support Groups.

It is highly likely that there are other officers working in shift orientated roles within Districts and Departments, but to obtain full details of all of these officers would involve the retrieval of information from every District and Department in the PSNI and it is highly likely that this retrieval process 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.

Question 5

What percentage is this of the total number of officers within the PSNI?

Answer

The answer to this question is contained within the answers to questions 1 and 4 and amounts to **40.27%** at the time of your request and based on the categorisation of "officers serving in a shift orientated role" as outlined above.

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 @ www.psnipolice.uk

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