



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-02319

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: POLICE OFFICERS ON CAREER BREAKS

Request and Answer:

Question

Can you provide me with details of Police Officers who have been granted permission to work in Police Services outside of the UK, whilst on a career break?

With regards to the details of Police Officers all that I require is the numbers of Police Officers who have applied for career breaks stipulating that they are going to work for another Police Service outside the UK. Within that number I would like to know the number denied and granted their career break, if this is possible.

Answer

Data of this nature is not recorded centrally within the PSNI and because of this we had to contact the Human Resource Managers in each of our District Command Units in an attempt to retrieve any available information. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that there is no standardised way to collate the requested information within different districts which is why some Human Resource managers may be able to retrieve the information and provide a response within the time permitted under FOI legislation and other managers would have to carry out prolonged manual searches of Personnel records. This would take well in excess of the time permitted to locate and provide the information as set down in FOI legislation.

Because of the way this data is recorded, the information requested will have to be extracted from an electronic data base as well as a manual check of files. The cost of doing this including determining whether the information is held, locating it and retrieving and extracting it would exceed the "appropriate limit" as stated in the Freedom of Information Regulation 2004, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland have also considered whether we can be of any assistance in terms of helping you refine your request to bring it under the cost limit. If you were to limit your request to a specific district or districts, we may be able to provide a response depending on the way those particular districts collate their information.

You may wish to submit a refined request in order that the cost of complying with your request may be facilitated within the 'appropriate limit'. Submission of a refined request would be treated as a new request, and considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, including consideration of relevant Part II exemptions.

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 @ www.psnipolice.uk

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