



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-02409

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: POLICE - RELIGION

Request and Answer:

Question 1

What is the ethnic make-up of the PSNI?

Answer

As at 01.07.09 the ethnic breakdown of regular officers was;

White - 7073 (97.26%)
Ethnic Minority - 32 (0.44%)
Not Stated - 167 (2.30%)

Question 2

What is the religious make-up of the PSNI?

Answer

The PSNI currently meets statutory monitoring obligations in line with the Fair Employment and Treatment Order (NI) 1998, the Fair Employment (Monitoring) Regulations (NI) 1999 and the Police (NI) Act 2000, by monitoring for community background. This in effect means that it currently has data on those who are members of the Roman Catholic community, the Protestant community and on those whose community background could not be determined. The PSNI does not currently monitor beyond these categories.

As at 01.07.09 the community background breakdown of regular officers was

Protestant - 5129 (70.53%)
Catholic - 1969 (27.08%)
Not Determined - 174 (2.39%)

Question 3

Are there any PSNI officers registered as part of the Pagan Police Association, and if so, how many are there?

Answer

The PSNI currently does not have a Pagan Police Association.

Question 4

If so, do they get the extra eight days' holiday for solstice celebrations?

Answer

See response to question 3.

Question 5

Are there any other religions in the PSNI that officers have signed to - Muslim, Jewish etc that give them entitlement to extra holidays under the terms of their religion? How many officers if any have signed on to these religions and how many days' holiday does that entitle them to?

Answer

As stated previously in the response to question 2, the PSNI monitors community background, rather than religious belief.

For your information within the PSNI the dates of the Public Holidays for police officers are laid down in the Police Service of Northern Ireland Regulations 2005, Part I, paragraph 3(1). This defines public holidays as follows:

'public holiday' means -

(a) New Year's Day, St. Patrick's Day, first Monday in May and last Monday in May, 12th July, last Monday in August, Christmas Day and 26th December; and

(b) (in addition) in any year where New Year's Day, Christmas Day or 26th December falls on a Saturday or Sunday, any substitute day;".

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.psni.police.uk

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