



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-02396

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: PSNI ENTRANCE EXAM / FITNESS TESTS

Request and Answer:

Question 1

How many police are currently serving in the force who initially failed their entrance exam and had to re-take it in this year's intake?

Answer

All students who "fail" the Student Officer Training Programme either resign or are dismissed from the PSNI. They are not re-coursed in such circumstances. On occasions when an officer needs additional time to develop (our formal performance below standard process refers) or has been absent through injury or illness, re-coursing is considered as an option. Since April 2008, 41 students have been re-coursed.

Question 2

Is there mandatory fitness testing for PSNI officers? Does this testing include senior officers? - at what level does it stop?

Answer

Student officers are required to meet a mandatory standard of fitness in order to graduate from the Police College. Probationer Constables are also required to meet a mandatory standard of fitness in order to successfully complete the probationer period.

To date, police officers who have been confirmed to the rank of Constable are not required to meet a mandatory standard of physical fitness. However, officers applying for specific specialist roles are required to meet a standard of fitness.

There is no mandatory testing for senior officers.

Question 3

If yearly mandatory fitness tests do take place, how many officers failed this year and for what reasons?

Answer

To date, this year, 156 assessments have been administered to specialist unit applicants, 150 of which met the required standard. The officers who failed were not physically competent to meet the requirements of the specialist function.

Question 4

How many police failed mandatory fitness tests at the first stage of the last intake and are now serving?

Answer

Of the squad who have just graduated (46 officers), 12 students failed their Physical Competency Assessment at week 2 but subsequently passed it at the end of the course.

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.

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