



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-03688

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: PSNI OFFICERS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE ORANGE ORDER

Request and Answer:

Question

I would like to know how many police officers in the PSNI are also members of the Orange Order. I would like to know the number from each District in Northern Ireland?

I would be interested in any information held by your organisation regarding my request. I understand that I do not have to specify files and documents and that it is the department's responsibility to provide the information I require.

I would like to receive the information in hard copy.

Answer

The information you requested is recorded in the Notifiable Memberships Register maintained by the PSNI and was received in confidence by virtue of Section 51 of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000. Under Section 51(5) of the Act there is an obligation on officers to indicate if they are members of certain organisations or that they believe that they have no Notifiable Memberships. The Orange Order is a Notifiable Organisation.

Disclosure from the Notifiable Memberships Register can only be made if certain circumstances are fulfilled - Sections 51(8) and (9) refer. Section 51(9) has been fulfilled. In this instance the only circumstances within Section 51(8) relevant to your request are contained within Sub Section (8)(e). As no officer will be identified release is permitted under this Sub Section.

The legislation may be viewed by visiting website
www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2000/ukpga_20000032_en_1

A search of the Notifiable Memberships database reveals that 118 officers have notified the Chief Constable that they are members of the Orange Order. This is broken down by DCU as follows:

Headquarter locations	8 officers
A District	7 officers
B District	5 officers
C District	9 officers
D District	9 officers
E District	19 officers
F District	22 officers
G District	25 officers
H District	14 officers

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate to contact the Freedom of Information Team 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.