



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2009-02810

**Keyword:** Organisational Information/Governance

**Subject:** SECURITY CLEARANCE VETTING PROCESS

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

Does the PSNI internal vetting policy and procedures comply with the HMG Security Policy Framework V 1.0 December 2008?

#### Answer

Yes, the PSNI internal vetting policy and procedures are compliant.

#### Question 2

If all internal appeals to a vetting decision have failed is there an external body to which an appeal can be made?

#### Answer

Yes; there is an external body for appeals.

#### Question 3

If there is; is there any obligation upon the PSNI to inform an applicant of this?

#### Answer

Yes, the PSNI are obliged to inform the applicant.

#### Question 4

If the answer to any of these questions is 'yes' then please provide all relevant information.

#### Answer

There is an appeals mechanism; however this is only available to certain categories of applicant. It is PSNI policy to inform any eligible applicant who has exhausted the internal appeals process of their right of appeal to the external body.

#### Question 5

Does the internal vetting process meet the standards set by Government, Home Office or Regulatory bodies? If not please provide details of any divergence.

#### Answer

Yes; the internal vetting process does meet the required standard.

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](mailto: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 @ <http://www.psni.police.uk/>

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