



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2010-02074

**Keyword:** Finance

**Subject:** Overtime payments 2007 - 2010

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

I would like to know BROKEN DOWN for the financial years (or calendar if financial is not possible) 2007-2008, 2008-09, and 09-10 (to date):

For each year, how many officers in your constabulary were eligible for overtime payments? (And what were their ranks (constable/sergeant)? A headcount of constables/sergeants taken at one point in the year would also be acceptable for each year, if this question is not possible to answer.

#### Question 2

For each year, how many eligible officers received overtime payments (broken down to ranks of constable/sergeant)?

#### Question 3

For each year, of the officers who received overtime, how many received between:

- £1 - £5,000
- £5,001 - £10,000
- £10,001 - £20,000
- £20,001 - £30,000
- £30,001 - £40,000
- £40,001 - £50,000
- £50,000+

in overtime payments?

#### Question 4

Ideally, I would prefer you to send a list the individual amounts of overtime paid to each eligible officer to me in an Excel spreadsheet, with personal details redacted of course, (this is also to save you breaking down the information for me, but a breakdown as stated above is fine too).

If you can only send me this information including salaries, this is fine too (in which case, please use the nine parameters starting £20,001 - £30,000, £30,001 - £40,000, etc, all the way to £100,000+).

However, I would need to know the officer's basic salary, as well, so I can calculate their overtime myself.

If it is not possible for you to send me an Excel spreadsheet with the individual breakdowns as stated above, could you please tell me, for each of the years specified above, the top three annual overtime payments received by individual officers in your constabulary?

### **Answer**

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit) to provide you the applicant with a notice which states that fact.

It is estimated that the cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the "appropriate costs limit" under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450 (18 hours).

The information requested is held in several different locations and data bases within our Finance Department. To gather this information on an individual basis would require a programmer to create, test and write several extraction programs to be used on the systems. The data would then need to be collated and checked. It is estimated that this would take at least 32 hours which is well in excess of the 18 hour threshold set by the Secretary of State.

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.

The PSNI have also considered possible ways to refine your request in order that the cost of complying with it may be facilitated within the 'appropriate limit'. Overall costs for overtime data would be more easily retrieved and therefore may be possible to provide this information within the cost threshold.

Information in relation to question 1 for 2010 is currently available on our publication scheme and can be accessed using the following link;

[http://www.psni.police.uk/index/updates/updates\\_statistics/updates\\_strength\\_of\\_police\\_service\\_statistics.htm](http://www.psni.police.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics/updates_strength_of_police_service_statistics.htm)

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.

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 letter.

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 @ [www.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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