



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2010-02693

**Keyword:** Finance

**Subject:** Police Bonuses

### Request and Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested.

I have today decided to:

- disclose records in answer to questions 2, 3 and 4 in full; and
- fully exempt records in answer to question 1 pursuant to the provisions of Section 40 of the Act.

### Question 1

How much was or will be paid in bonuses to officers of ACPO rank for the year 2009/2010?

### Answer

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states that fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

The exemption is Section 40(2) Personal Information.

Section 40 is a class-based and absolute exemption so therefore a Harm Test and Public Interest Test are not necessary. It only remains to explain why the exemption is engaged. The amount paid in bonuses is clearly the personal information of any individual.

All requests made under FOIA are applicant blind. A request must be treated as such and a public authority will always view any disclosure as into the public domain and not just to an individual.

Personal Data is regulated under the principles of the Data Protection Act 1998 and when information contains personal data about a third party it can only be released if disclosure would not breach any of the data protection principles.

Principle 1 is that personal data must only be processed lawfully and fairly. To process this information for any other purpose, i.e. by releasing it under the Freedom of Information would be unfair to the individual concerned and therefore a breach of this principle.

To protect salary or remuneration details relating to individuals, details are routinely provided in banded form. To see these banded salaries of officers of ACPO rank, please see link to the PSNI accounts:

[http://www.psni.police.uk/annual\\_accounts\\_09\\_10.pdf](http://www.psni.police.uk/annual_accounts_09_10.pdf)

### **Question 2**

How was this money divided (e.g. chief constable received £10,000, deputy chief constable received £5,000 etc)?

### **Answer**

This was paid to 1 Assistant Chief Constable.

### **Question 3**

How does this figure compare to the two previous years (i.e. 2007 to 2008 and 2008 to 2009)?

### **Answer**

2007/2008 = £31,184.45 – 4 Officers in ACPO rank.

2008/2009 = £41,861.43 – 4 Officers in ACPO rank.

### **Question 4**

Were any reasons cited for the increase or decrease in the amounts paid out in 2009/2010 compared to the previous year?

### **Answer**

The Police Service of Northern Ireland's Finance Branch is only instructed on amounts to pay, they do not make decisions for the increase or decrease in the amounts paid.

You may wish to contact the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB) who may be better placed to answer this question. To access the Freedom of Information Request Form for the NIPB please click on the following link: <http://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk/index/freedom-of-information/making-a-request.htm>.

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 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.psnipolice.uk](http://www.psnipolice.uk)

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