



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2010-03092

**Keyword:** Human Resources

**Subject:** Carpal Tunnel Syndrome

### 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.

### Question

Previous request F-2010-02769 states 'Since 2006, a total of 148 personnel have availed of sickness absence relating to Upper Limb Conditions. There has been a total of 17 personnel in D District'.

In relation to the 148 personnel can this be further 'drilled down' to provide additional details of the number of staff and/or officers in the organisation, who have Carpal Tunnel Syndrome attributed to their condition in the 'comments box' of their medical history.

### 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 you have requested is not held centrally and therefore all HR Managers in each district and department within PSNI, were canvassed for their responses. One department advised that the 'comments box' is not always completed and therefore it would be necessary to extract both electronic and manual records to identify the medical condition. For one department alone, this process would take approximately 44 hours, which would greatly exceed the 18 hours limit.

The PSNI has also considered if it can assist to help you refine your request, to bring it under the cost limit. It may be possible to provide the requested information in relation to some of the smaller districts within the cost limit.

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 any relevant exemptions.

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.

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.psn.police.uk](http://www.psn.police.uk)

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