



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-02913

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour Based Violence Training

Request and Answer:

Question 1

Please confirm the number of staff currently employed by your force. In response to this and further questions please count each part-time member of staff as a full employee. I'd appreciate it if you could include in this number:

- police officers
 - PCSOs (police community support officers)
 - special constables
 - call handlers
 - frontline staff such as reception attendants who deal with members of the public but are not officers.
- If you do not have current numbers available please provide numbers for the latest available date.

Question 2

Please confirm the number of staff currently employed by your force who have completed fully their training for using DASH (Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour Based Violence Training).

Question 3

Of those staff who have received training in DASH, please confirm how many have received training for the use of the S-DASH risk assessment as part of their training.

Question 4

Please confirm the number of relevant staff currently employed in your force who have not fully completed their training for using DASH.

Question 5

If a proportion of relevant staff have not completed training in the use of DASH please confirm:

- a) whether you have a schedule in place to complete this training;
- b) the date by which all relevant staff in your force should expect to be trained.

Question 6

Please confirm how much standard training each relevant member of staff should expect to receive in the use of DASH. If this is a standard number of hours please tell me what this is. Please confirm

whether this training includes instruction in the use of the S-DASH risk assessment.

Question 7

Please confirm the ranks of staff which:

- a) have received DASH training
- b) haven't received DASH training

Question 8

Are there any ranks of staff for whom you do not plan to offer DASH training? If so please confirm these ranks.

Question 9

Please confirm in how many incidents since March 2009 an S-DASH Checklist (specifically related to stalking) has been used by staff in your force.

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).

Information in relation to DASH training is not recorded centrally. This training is provided by Professional Development Units in each of our eight District Command Units and each of the District Trainers record details of training taken and required within their individual Districts. Therefore each of our 8 District Command Units were asked to provide time estimations for retrieving the information you have requested.

There is no standardised way to record training details within different District Command Units and while some may be able to retrieve the information relatively quickly, other larger Districts would be required to carry out prolonged searches. One District alone has estimated that it would take 23.5 hours to locate, read and extract the information, which in itself is 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 has also considered possible ways to refine your request in order that the cost of complying with it may be facilitated within the 'appropriate limit'. It may be possible to provide the information for a specified District or Districts. 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

Although excess cost removes the PSNI's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied information relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

Information in relation to question 1 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

Answer to Question 3

No training has been provided in respect of the S-DASH as this has not yet gone operational within the PSNI.

Answer to Question 6

The standard Quality Assured Domestic Abuse lesson is 3hrs. This does not include instruction in the use of the S-DASH risk assessment.

Answer to Question 9

An S-DASH Checklist has never been used by staff in PSNI as this is not yet operational within the service.

Please note; 77 members of the PSNI attended the initial DASH training provided by the ACPO Lead Advisor on Violence in 2008.

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.

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

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