



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2010-03253

**Keyword:** Human Resources

**Subject:** EOII Positions and Civilian Staff Returning to Work

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

How many EOII positions within the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) are currently filled by lower grades, either 'acting up' to EOII grade or temporarily promoted to that grade?

#### Question 2

How many Executive Officer II grade positions are currently filled by agency staff, and of those staff, how many are retired police officers?

#### Question 3

Since 10th March 2007 how many EOII positions within PSNI have become available, and of those how many have been based in the Armagh, Banbridge, Newry and Lisburn areas?

#### Question 4

How many PSNI civilian staff have returned to work from a career break since 10th March 2007, and of those how many returned to work in the same location/premises that they previously worked in?

#### 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.

The information requested in question 3 cannot be easily retrieved. To attempt to compile the information would require the examination of each daily Establishment sheet over the period. This amounts to some 1375 daily spreadsheets. Allowing two minutes to manually check each spreadsheet, this would equate to over 45 hours, greatly exceeding the cost threshold.

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 Police Service of Northern Ireland have also considered whether we can be of any assistance in terms of helping you refine this part of your request to bring it under the cost threshold. However, the nature and structure of the information unfortunately makes this impossible.

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.

#### Answer to Question 1

There are 25 staff members currently temporary promoted to Analogous EOII grade from lower grades.

#### Answer to Question 2

There are 61 Analogous EOII grades currently filled by agency staff. We are unable to extract information in relation to retired Police Officers.

#### Answer to Question 4

28 civilian staff have returned to PSNI from Career Break since 10/03/2007 and of these 7 have returned to work in the same location/station as they had previously worked in.

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.