



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2010-01535

**Keyword:** Human Resources

**Subject:** Method Used For Testing Applicants Eyesight Standards

### 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 and the answers to your questions are as follows:

#### Question 1

What method does the Police Service employ to test applicants on eyesight standards?

#### Answer

The Police Service employ the Six metre Snellens fixed illuminated (3 chart).

#### Question 2

What method does the Police Service employ to test applicants on colour deficiency? (The most common method used by other forces is the University of London or Ishihara Plates).

#### Answer

The method used is the City University (2<sup>nd</sup> edition).

#### Question 3

If the method used is the Ishihara plates then which book is used to determine the levels of deficiency and how many plates are in that book and how many plates does applicants have to get correctly in order to progress? Please state model of plate book if possible.

#### Answer

Not applicable

#### Question 4

If the above method is not used please detail the reasoning behind which method is used?

#### Answer

Snellens alone is insufficient to determine the extent colour discrimination impairment which needs further assessed by a second test. City 2<sup>nd</sup> edition has a good correlation with the more complex Farnsworth test. If City is passed as a screening test then colour vision is normal. If not it also gives an assessment of the extent of the impairment.

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

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