



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-01534

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: Officers Injured In The Line Of Duty

Request and Answer:

Question 1

Can you please tell me whether or not the Police Service currently has any officers who have been injured in the line of duty to the extent where they have lost a limb and have successfully returned to duty with the aid of a prosthetic limb?

Question 2

How many wheel chair users does the PSNI employ either as officers or civilians?

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 requested is not held centrally within the Police Service of Northern Ireland and we contacted the Human Resource Managers in each of our District Command Units and Departments in an attempt to retrieve any available information.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that there is no standardised way to collate the requested information within different Districts which is why some Human Resource managers may be able to retrieve the information and provide a response within the time permitted under FOI legislation and other Managers of the larger districts would have to carry out prolonged manual searches of Personnel records. One district alone estimated that this information would take 14 hours to retrieve and this combined with the estimates for other districts and departments would exceed the cost threshold.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland have also considered whether we can be of any assistance in terms of helping you refine your request to bring it under the cost limit and believe we may be able to provide a response if you refined your request to districts alone.

You may wish to submit a refined request as stated above in order that the cost of complying with your request may be facilitated within the 'appropriate 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 relevant Part II exemptions.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice with regard to questions 1 and 2 and this has therefore been closed.

Question 8

If any officer was injured in the line of duty to the extent that a limb was lost would that officer be rehabilitated and offered an office role upon return to duty?

Answer

I have been advised by several areas that this question cannot be answered specifically. While every effort would be made to facilitate by making all reasonable adjustments, each case would require to be considered individually, depending on the circumstances.

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.psnipolice.uk

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