



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-01320

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: Officers on Restricted/Recuperative Duties

Request and Answer:

I am writing to confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information and the answer to your questions are as follows:

Question 1

How many officers were on restricted and recuperative duties as at (i) 31st December 2008 and (ii) 31st December 2009?

Answer

As at 31.12.2008 there were 466 officers on restricted and recuperative duties.

As at 31.12.2009 there were 528 officers on restricted and recuperative duties.

Question 2

How many police officers on restricted and recuperative duties on (i) 31st December 2008 and (ii) 31st December 2009 were working for less than their normal contracted hours?

Question 3

How many of these officers are working for four hours or less per day for the cohort from (i) 31 December 2008 and (ii) 31 December 2009?

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 in questions 2 and 3 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 so the Human Resource Managers in each of our District Command Units and Departments had to be contacted 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/Departments, which is why some Human Resource Managers may be able to retrieve the information and provide a response with 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 24 hours to retrieve which, when added with estimates from the other Districts/Departments, would greatly exceed the cost threshold.

You may wish to submit a refined request in order that the cost of complying with your request may be facilitated within the "appropriate limit". It may be possible to retrieve this information, for current members, for selected District(s)/Department(s).

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.

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.

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.