



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-02446

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: In Current Recruitment Campaign, Referral for PCA Test

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 answer to your questions are as follows:

Question 1

How many candidates in the current recruitment campaign have been referred to carry out the Physical Competency Assessment (PCA) due to a LOW BMI and body weight as opposed to being overweight?

Answer

Only one applicant has been offered the opportunity to attend the PCA due to concerns over low body weight.

Question 2

Why is this not published in current Occupational Health standards?

Answer

This is not in the current Occupational Health Standards as it is not currently a national standard. It is not in the National Police Standard as we are the only Police Service who do not do the fitness test as part of the recruitment in all cases.

This is to inform the applicant of the challenges which might be encountered in trying to pass the PCA bearing in mind very low body weight. It enables applicants to make an informed decision as to whether they should give up their current employment considering the possibility they may not pass the PCA at the end of the student officer course. If unable to pass the end of the PCA course they would not be able to continue into their probation period.

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.