



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-02894

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: Police Officers - Pagan, Druid, Heathen or Wiccan

Request and Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has now completed its search for the information you requested. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full.

Question 1

I respectfully request any data that you may have in relation to the number of police officers and staff in your constabulary who have identified themselves as Pagan or any of the Pagan derivative paths such as Druid, Heathen, or Wiccan.

Answer

PSNI do not monitor the faiths/religions outlined in your request. Therefore we do not hold any data in relation to the number of police officers and staff who identify themselves as Pagan, Druid, Heathen or Wiccan.

Question 2

I am aware that not all police forces record this data, and as such I also request that you provide me with the religions and faiths that you do record – if any at all. I would appreciate this information in hard copy; an email would be acceptable.

Answer

Fair Employment and Treatment legislation in Northern Ireland requires PSNI to monitor community background rather than faith/religion. Accordingly PSNI request that individuals disclose whether there are "a member of the Protestant community", "the Roman Catholic community" or "other". For more information on workforce composition figures please see the following link to the PSNI publication scheme;

http://www.psni.police.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics/updates_workforce_composition_figures.htm

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.