



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-02559
Keyword: Human Resources
Subject: Restraining Members of the Public

Request and Answer:

I am writing to confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information.

I have today decided to:

- fully exempt records in answer to question 1 pursuant to the provisions of Section 21 of the Act and;
- disclose records in answer to question 2 in full;

Question 1

I would be grateful for sight of the PSNI policy for restraining members of the public.

Answer

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states that fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

The following exemption has been applied:

S21 Information Reasonably Accessible by Other Means

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 it has been decided to refuse access to the information you have requested. Section 21 of the Act provides that information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means is exempt information.

Policy 07/07 - Public Order and the Use of Force can be accessed via the PSNI website using the link provided below:

Question 2

I would also be grateful if I could have details of any training that is provided to PSNI officers with regard to dealing with members of the public who have an obvious mental illness, particularly in terms of the attitude required of officers.

Answer

The 2010/11 Equality & Diversity Training Programme offers the following programmes in relation to mental health:

- Mental Health Awareness (classroom based)
- Managing Mental Health (classroom based - currently being developed for introduction within PSNI)
- Autism Awareness (classroom based)
- Mental Health and Learning Difficulties (e-learning package currently being considered for introduction within PSNI)

In addition, the following courses include sections on general disability awareness:

- Diversity Works (classroom based)
- Managing Diversity (classroom based)
- Equality & Diversity Awareness for Student Officers (mandatory, classroom based training)
- Disability Awareness (classroom based)
- Diversity Now (mandatory, e-learning package)
- Disability and the Police (mandatory, e-learning package)

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.

