



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2010-00008

**Keyword:** Human Resources

**Subject:** OFFICERS SUFFERING STRESS/DEPRESSION

**Request and Answer:**

### Question 1

The number of police officers who have been off duty because of 'stress' or 'depression' between April 09 and Dec 31 09, April 08-April 09, April 07-April 08, April 06-April 07.

### Answer

Please see the table below stating the number of officers absent due to stress related illness. The figures quoted include Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Other Stress, Anxiety, Depression and Nervous Debility.

From	To	Number of Individual officers absent from work (All Ranks)
01.04.2009	31.12.2009	194
01.04.2008	31.03.2009	272
01.04.2007	31.03.2008	326
01.04.2006	31.03.2007	348

### Question 1A

The estimated costs of providing 'cover' for these officers as a result of their absence from work.

### Answer

It is estimated that the cost of complying with Question 1A 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. There are a number of ways to cover staff absence ie deputise another staff

member, absorb the work internally, engage additional agency personnel etc. Each period of absence would require examination to determine how cover was provided and the associated cost calculated. This would be a lengthy process and would exceed the 18 hour limit.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice in relation to Question 1A and the request has therefore been closed.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland have also considered whether we can be of assistance in terms of helping you refine Question 1A, to bring it under the cost limit however, the nature and structure of the information, unfortunately makes this impossible.

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](mailto: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](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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