



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-01996

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: Probationary Constables Served with Regulation 13 Papers

Request and Answer:

Question 1

Since 2004 within the PSNI how many probationary Constables have been served with regulation 13 papers due to the reason 'there is evidence that the Officer is not likely to be an efficient and effective Officer' resulting from an injury received while on duty.

Question 2

Since 2004 how many probationary Constables have served probation for longer than three years?

Question 3

Since 2004 what is the maximum amount of time a probationary Constable has served on probation?

Question 4

Since 2004 how many probationary Constables have been signed out of probation without completing the physical assessment?

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 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).

In relation to Question 1 and Question 4 the information is not held centrally and therefore it was necessary to canvass all districts within PSNI to ascertain how long it would take to retrieve the information. One district has advised that the information is prior to current District structures and retrieval would require examination of approximately 350 personnel files. Estimating that it would take 10 minutes to examine each file, retrieval would equate to 58 hours. This would greatly exceed the 18 hour cost limit.

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'. In compliance with Section 16 of the Act, I have considered how your request may be refined to bring it under the appropriate limit. It may be possible to provide the information from **some** of the districts who have returned lower estimates for retrieval of the information.

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.

Although excess cost removes the PSNI's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, I have provided below the information which was retrieved before it was realised that the cost limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of the request.

Answer 2

141

Answer 3

6.24 years

Probationary periods can be extended for a number of different reasons, for example sickness absence.

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.

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.psnipolice.uk

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