



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F 2011 01252

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Staff Officer Civilian Financial Investigators

Request and Answer:

Question 1

Please provide me with the

- (a) minutes of any meetings and
- (b) copies of correspondence held on computers,
- (c) emails,
- (d) in printed or handwritten documents

Where the Police Service of Northern Ireland discussed career progression paths solely for Staff Officer Civilian Financial Investigators.

The period requested is from July 2007 to date and covers the

- (e) Links project evaluation process,
- (f) Job Evaluation process (JEG),
- (g) Resource to risk process (R2R) and
- (h) Human Resources (HR) distribution plan and
- (i) any other panels where this was discussed.

Answer

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), 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 1 (c) of your request alone 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 (18 hours) £450. If this cost applies to one or more elements/questions, then it applies to the entire request.

In relation to your request for the minutes of any meetings and copies of correspondence held on computers, emails, in printed or handwritten documents where the PSNI discussed career progression paths solely for Staff Officer Civilian Financial Investigators covering the period from July 2007 to date covering the Links project evaluation process, Job Evaluation process (JEG), Resource to risk process (R2R) and Human Resources (HR) distribution plan and any other panels where this

was discussed this information is not held in an easily retrievable format and would be embedded into many different locations, systems, index's and headings and therefore it would be over the fees to extract.

By way of further explanation regarding the email element alone a request to the PSNI's Information Communication Services Branch (ICS) would have to made to reinstate any archived emails and then a trawl would be required through the archived emails to establish what information they would hold that would be relevant to your request and to provide context. Following the email search, a member of staff would have to go to search the PSNI central storage facility to retrieve any relevant hard copy documentation and again trawl through it, to establish if the records are relevant to your request.

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

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'.

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.

Section 16 – Duty to provide advice and assistance

In compliance with Section 16 of the Act, I have considered how your request may be refined to bring it under the appropriate limit. Although PSNI may hold information relevant to your request, these records are retained, as mentioned previously, in many different locations, systems, index's and headings. Therefore, due to the nature and structure of the information requested this would make it extremely difficult for the PSNI to advise you how to refine your request to a point below the £450 cost limit.

If you have any queries regarding your request or this decision please do not hesitate to contact 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.