



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F2011 03101

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Police Officers Rehired to work in Crime Operations

Request and Answer:

Question

The statistics regarding those officers who took Patton severance packages in the last 2 years (2010 and 2011 to date) and who have been rehired in any capacity (consultant, etc) to work in Crime Operations. Please also provide detail as to what branch of Crime Operations and in what capacity.

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. It is estimated that the time would be in excess of the 18 hour limit.

By way of explanation local Human Resources (HR) would have to outsource the request to Central HR (Establishment) for a list of leavers specifically those on severance, as local reports only pull up all leavers and not reasons why.

Once there is a breakdown of individuals, cross references would have to be made with all engagements made by Crime Operations in the last 2 years. Whilst there is access to the agency assignments and Grafton Associates a separate report for joiners would have to be run and an approach would have to be made to Business Services and/or Central HR in relation to consultants.

- It would take approximately 5 minutes to assess each record on SAP
- Outsourcing requests (initial severance list and consultants) would have to be initiated
- Grafton Associates records would have to be cross-referenced
- Agency records would have to be cross-referenced
- Running a joiners report and cross-referencing would have to be completed

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.' In compliance with Section 16 of the Act, I have considered how your request may be refined to bring it under the appropriate limit, however due to the nature of your request we are unable to advise you how to refine your question.

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.

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.psni.police.uk

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