



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-01820

Keyword: Finance

Subject: Claims Settled in the Last 2 Financial Years

Request and Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full.

Question

How many claims of unlawful arrest or detention have you settled in each of the last two financial years (09/10 and 10/11) either at court or prior to a court hearing, where a payment has been made to the claimant?

In respect of claims how much compensation was paid out to the claimants in total for each year?

What was the highest single compensation payment made in each financial year in relation to unlawful arrest or detention?

Please note that this question refers to payments made in each financial year irrespective of when the incident actually happened.

Clarification

On June 15, 2011 we wrote to you to advise that the PSNI's Legal Services Department have a category of claim on their database which includes claims for unlawful arrest and detention but not exclusively. The category covers claims from members of the public who allege wrongful acts by police and include claims for assault, battery, unlawful arrest, false imprisonment/unlawful detention and malicious prosecution. We advised you that pinpointing claims to exactly match your request would be virtually impossible.

Subsequently, on the same date, you agreed to receive details of the numbers of total claims in this category settled 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 and the amount of compensation paid.

Answer

Please find below details of claims in this category settled in 2009/2010 and 2010/2011, including the amount of compensation paid and the highest payment made each year.

Year	No of Claims Settled	Total Amount Paid in Compensation	Highest Payment
09/10	67	384,684	90,000
10/11	64	228,128	90,000

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.psnj.police.uk

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