



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-03092

Keyword: Finance

Subject: Hearing Loss Claims

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 1

Please kindly provide me with the following information in respect of hearing loss claims by current or former RUC / PSNI officers:

How many potential claims have been notified to you?

Answer

Computerised records within Legal Services Branch hold details of hearing loss claims back to 1997. The figures below set out the details requested in respect of hearing loss claims up to 31/08/2011.

8, 519 hearing loss claims have been registered.

Question 2

How many of the potential claims have been settled?

Answer

3, 361 of the claims have been settled.

Question 3

Of those settled claims, how many have been settled prior to the commencement of court proceedings?

Answer

21 claims were settled pre-proceedings.

Question 4

What is the total sum paid out in respect of the settled claims?

Answer

£62,190,218 in total was paid out in respect of the settled claims.

Question 5

Of that total sum, what amount relates to compensation / damages for the claimants and what amount relates to legal and associated costs?

Answer

£33, 397, 296 relates to compensation paid.

£28, 792, 922 relates to legal/court fees.

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.psni.police.uk

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