



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-00391
Keyword: Finance
Subject: Flights for Sir Hugh Orde's Family

Request and Answer:

I am writing to confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information.

I have today decided to:

- disclose information in response to questions 2 to 5 in full; and
- fully exempt information in response to questions 1 and 6 pursuant to the provisions of Section 21 of the Act.

Question 1

Re: Contractual arrangements between PSNI and NIPB in relation to Sir Hugh Orde - Flights for Orde's family paid from public purse.

I refer to previous correspondence over a protracted period in relation to expenses claimed by the previous Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde, and would now request the following information under Freedom of Information legislation.

Travel expenditure of Sir Hugh Orde from 1/1/2007 until his retirement, presented on a yearly basis.

Answer

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states that fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

The following exemption has been applied:

Section 21 - Information Reasonably Accessible by Other Means

The information you request is made available within the PSNI Publication Scheme and may be located on the PSNI website, www.psni.police.uk, under the Category '[What We Spend and How We Spend It](#)'.

Question 2

Travel expenditure by PSNI on Sir Hugh Orde's family from his appointment on each financial year until his retirement.

Answer

2002 - £2,388.20
2003 - £8,564.90
2004 - £8,159.20
2005 - £5,228.20
2006 - £3,244.40
2007 - £604.80
2008 - Nil
2009 - Nil

Question 3

Was any travel booked by PSNI for Sir Hugh Orde's family for travel outside the United Kingdom and if so, where, and cost on a yearly basis.

Answer

Yes. Dublin

2002 – £448.00
2003 – £787.60
2004 – £318.80
2005 - £725.45

Question 4

What agreement was made with NIPB in relation to Sir Hugh Orde's contract and the cost of flights between 2004 and 2007 when 50% of costs were reimbursed by Sir Hugh Orde, also include copies of such agreements.

Answer

"The Board confirmed that a review was undertaken by the Board's Chief Executive in May 2007 and retrospective approval was granted for claims up to the point at which permanent accommodation was provided for the Chief Constable (September 2004). The amount claimed during the period October 2004 to April 2007 was £11,346. There was a shared responsibility in not triggering the review of the clause on schedule, the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board agreed with the Chief Constable that the Board would pay 50% of this amount and the Chief Constable would pay 50%"

Question 5

Amount of money reimbursed by Sir Hugh Orde being 50% for each year between 2004 - 2007 on a yearly basis.

Answer

2004 - £2011.20
2005 - £5,228.20
2006 - £3,244.80
2007 – £604.80
£177.80 miscellaneous (flight changes etc)

Question 6

Before my previous enquiry relating to Sir Hugh Orde's expenses, PSNI stated, "The Chief Constable has asked an individual to look at all his travel and accommodation costs over the last 3 years".

- i. Please supply name of person appointed
- ii. Supply a copy of such report
- iii. Indicate if report was shared with NIPB and if so, who was it shared with?

Answer

- i. See ii below
- ii. The following exemption has been applied:

Section 21 - Information Reasonably Accessible by Other Means

The information you request, including the answer to question 6(i) has been issued to members of the Northern Ireland Policing Board's Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee on Thursday 10th March 2011. As you are a member of this committee, the report is reasonably accessible to you and Section 21 of the Act is therefore applicable to these questions.

- iii. The report (2006/7 Deloitte report - Review of the Chief Constable's Expenses) has not been distributed to the full membership of the Policing Board. The report however was issued to members of the Board's Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee on Thursday 10th March 2011 for their information.

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.