



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-01300

Keyword: Finance

Subject: Overtime Costs

Request and Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has now completed its search for the information you requested and the answers to your questions are as follows.

Question 1

Amount of money claimed by officers in overtime from March 1st, 2011 to April 30th, 2011.

Answer

PSNI Finance Branch have advised that the total Overtime paid to Police Officers is:

March 2011 = £3,167,454.48

April 2011 = £5,183,878.73

Question 2

Please state the main reason for this ie: dissident threat, any other.

Answer

This would not be considered a valid question under the Section 8(1)(c) of the Act as it does not ask for recorded information.

For your information I can advise that overtime rules are set out in Section 24 of the Police regulations, which can be accessed using the following link;

http://www.nio.gov.uk/police_service_of_northern_ireland_regulations_conditions_for_regular_psniofficers.pdf

and annex E of the associated determinations (link below). These are the same criteria as applied for payment of overtime to all regular police officers in PSNI.

http://www.nio.gov.uk/determinations_associated_with_the_police_service_of_northern_ireland_regulations_2005.pdf

The context of decisions as to when overtime is applied will differ across the Service as it depends on available resources, notice given and hours undertaken in the particular week/day for each officer concerned.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland is firmly committed to working to reduce overtime within the main grant budget.

In 2010/11 the total overtime expenditure was £50.7m. However, it must be stressed that £22.3m of the total 2010/11 overtime expenditure of £50.7m has been spent policing the severe terrorist threat with ring fenced funding provided by Treasury.

It is also important to note that the main grant overtime expenditure, not including the ring fenced security budget, has fallen by 1% from £28.7m in 2009/10 to £28.4m in 2010/11.

The PSNI will continue to ensure that in protecting all communities across Northern Ireland it makes the most effective and efficient use of the overall budget.

It is expected that the implementation of the recommendations in the Winsor report will lead to further reductions in overtime expenditure in the current 4-year Comprehensive Spending Review period. The drive to make an additional 600 officers available for front line duties is also contributing to reducing the overtime bill. Additionally working practices are under review across all Departments and Districts with a view to finding more cost effective options which do not adversely impact upon front line service delivery.

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.