



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-01141

Keyword: Finance

Subject: Police Overtime 2008-2011

Request and Answer:

This request relates only to police officers, not civilian staff.

Question 1

The total number of staff who have received overtime payments in each of the last 3 financial years (2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11).

Question 2

The total number of staff who have received payments for premium shifts (i.e. where staff are paid more than the usual rate for shifts with late notice, bank holidays etc) in each of the last 3 financial years (2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11).

Question 3

The total hours of overtime worked by the whole force in each of the last 3 financial years (2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11).

Question 4

The total number of premium shifts worked (i.e. where staff are paid more than the usual rate for shifts with late notice, bank holidays etc) by the force in each of the last 3 financial years (2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11).

Question 5

The total hours worked in premium shifts (i.e. where staff are paid more than the usual rate for shifts with late notice, bank holidays etc) by the force in each of the last 3 financial years (2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11).

Question 6

The total amount paid in overtime in each of the last 3 financial years (2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11).

Question 7

The total amount paid for premium shifts (i.e. where staff are paid more than the usual rate for shifts with late notice, bank holidays etc) in each of the last 3 financial years (2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11).

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.

The information requested in questions 2,3,4,5 and 7 is not held in a central location within the PSNI but is held within the 8 District Command Units and Departments. Each of the Districts/Departments were asked to provide time estimates as to how long it would take to retrieve this information from their separate systems. One District alone advised that individual research over a 3 year period would be required for all transactions and would take an estimated 24 hours to retrieve. It is estimated that the total time required for all Districts/Departments to locate, retrieve and extract the information requested in this part of the request would take an estimated 357.5 hours.

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 the nature and structure of the information unfortunately makes this impossible.

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.

Although excess cost removes the PSNI's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, I have provided below the information which was retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

Question

The total number of staff who have received overtime payments in each of the last 3 financial years (2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11).

Answer

In 2008 / 2009 total = 7159 staff

In 2009 / 2010 total = 7292 staff

In 2010 / 2011 total = 6760 staff

Question

The total amount paid in overtime in each of the last 3 financial years (2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11).

Answer

The financial years are taken from 1 April to 31 March.

2008/2009 = £41,241,156.95

2009/2010 = £44,001,472.18

2010/2011 = £46,710,969.88

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.