



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-03194

Keyword: Finance

Subject: Severance Regulations

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 1 to 2 in full;
- fully exempt information in response to question 3 pursuant to the provisions of Section 21 of the Act.

Question 1

Previous request F-2011-02670 refers, by way of clarification:

Please can you state how many of the 402 officers who had severance arrangements subsequently rejoined the force either as Police officers or as police staff?

Answer 1

There were no Police officers rejoining the Force that had left under severance, however there were 6 who joined as Police staff and are employed under Two Year Fixed Term Contracts.

Question 2

Can you state how much was paid out under these "severance arrangements"?

Answer 2

The 402 officers leaving under the Voluntary Severance Scheme were paid severance awards totalling approximately £43.8 million (rounded to one decimal point).

Question 3

What was the Force policy? Clarification was received and confirmed as the policy referred to was reference to severance which was to deliver the programme in compliance with Regulation and the targets set by the Office of the Oversight Commissioner for Patten delivery.

Answer 3

Section 17(1) 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 on the Legislation.gov.uk website and can be accessed using the following link:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2003/60/contents/made>

The website for the Office of the Oversight Commissioner details the roles and responsibilities of the office and can be accessed using the following link:

<http://www.oversightcommissioner.org/Roles&resp/default.asp?page=roles>

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.psnipolice.uk

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