



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-02553

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: Accountancy Allowance

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

A number of Business Service Managers in PSNI are paid Accountancy Allowance in line with the Civil Service Handbook (8.14 Remuneration of Audit and Accountancy Staff). Several Business Managers have requested that they also be paid this allowance but have been refused it by Reward & Recognition Branch. The grounds for this refusal have not been made clear.

My questions are as follows:

In the last 2 years, how many full or acting BSMs in PSNI have been paid accountancy allowance? Please include BSMs who are currently acting up to other roles but have received this allowance as a BSM.

Answer

Six Business Service Managers have been in receipt of accountancy allowance.

Question 2

Under what criteria do these BSMs receive the allowance?

Answer

NICS Handbook (8.14 Remuneration of Audit & Accountancy Staff) - Section 6 – Remuneration of Accountants – Conditions of Payment of Allowances.

Question 3

In the last 2 years how many BSMs applied for accountancy allowance but have been refused it?

Answer

No application has been refused. Three applications are presently being held pending the outcome of a review of payment of Accountancy Allowance to Business Service Managers.

Question 4

On what grounds were these BSMs refused the allowance?

Answer

No applications have been refused.

Question 5

Who makes the final determination in PSNI as to who is entitled to this allowance.

Answer

The Director of Human Resources in consultation with the Head of Finance and Support Services.

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.