



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-00857

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: Direct Entry Transfers and Detectives in the PSNI

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 and the answer to your questions are as follows:

Question 1

I am aware that at present there is no facility to transfer directly from another force into the PSNI at the rank of Constable. Can you please advise if this is going to be possible in the future?

Answer

The special 50:50 recruitment arrangements flowing from the implementation of the Patten Report meant that any Constable recruited had to be processed through that means. The special arrangements (and the consequential requirements) lapsed on 28 March 2011. No decision has yet been taken on the facility to transfer directly from another force into the PSNI.

Question 2

In 2009 there was a detective shortfall of approximately 147, this being largely due to the Patten Report. Can you please state what the current figure is and if there is still a shortage of detectives?

Answer

There are currently 55 vacancies for Investigative Detectives.

Question 3

The Chief Constable recently stated that the extra funds given to the PSNI would be used on investigation and extra detectives. I am aware that in recent years the PSNI has set aside the Patten legislation and recruited Detectives directly from other UK forces.

Is this going to be repeated again in order to increase detective numbers?

Answer

No decision has yet been taken on any future recruitment.

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.