



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-03884

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: Domestic Violence Officers

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

I am requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act: For the entirety of this request, 'Domestic Violence Officers' include (but are not limited to) officers who specialise in domestic violence work, whether or not they are formally called Domestic Violence Officers.

For March 2010, March 2011 and October 2011, please tell me:

How many Domestic Violence Officers were in the force's establishment (excluding vacancies) at each point (measured in Full Time Equivalent (FTE) and headcount)

Answer

In March 2010, within PSNI there was a headcount of 46 Domestic Violence Officers and the FTE was 44.50.

In March 2011, within PSNI there was a headcount of 44 Domestic Violence Officers and the FTE was 42.50.

In October 2011, within PSNI there was a headcount of 44 Domestic Violence Officers and the FTE was 42.50.

Question 2

How many of those Domestic Violence Officers were solely focused on domestic violence work at each point (i.e. their roles didn't involve other responsibilities)

Answer

Response as per question 1.

Question 3

How many civilian staff working on domestic violence were in the force's establishment (excluding vacancies) at each point (measured in FTE and headcount)

Answer

In March 2010, within PSNI there was a headcount of 14 civilian staff in domestic violence and the FTE was 12.50.

In March 2011, within PSNI there was a headcount of 16 civilian staff in domestic violence and the FTE was 14.50.

In October 2011, within PSNI there was a headcount of 16 civilian staff in domestic violence and the FTE was 14.50.

Question 4

Please also detail any cuts to Domestic Violence Officer numbers, hours/specialism, or civilian staffing of domestic violence work, that are to be applied in 2011/12 and/or 2012/13 (please also indicate the extent to which this is accounted for in the above data for October 2011).

Answer

One District had a reduction of 2 staff for 2011/12 and another District is considering cuts in establishment but as yet this has not been confirmed.

Question 5

Further, for financial years 2010/11 and 2011/12, please tell me:

Whether the force operated/operates a dedicated Domestic Violence Unit in each year.

Answer

Within the financial years 2010/11 and 2011/12 PSNI had dedicated Domestic Violence Units.

Question 6

How much funding was budgeted for the Domestic Violence Unit each year.

Answer

The budget for the Domestic Violence Unit is incorporated into each of the 8 District budgets.

Question 7

In the absence of a dedicated Domestic Violence Unit, how much funding was budgeted for work on domestic violence each year.

Answer

As PSNI has Domestic Violence Units this question is not applicable.

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.